

# LETTERS

O F

## BARON BIELFELD,

SECRETARY of LEGATION to the KING of PRUSSIA; PRECEPTOR to PRINCE FERDINAND; CHANCELLOR of the UNIVERSITIES in the Dominions of his Prussian Majesty, F. R. A. B. &c. Author of the POLITICAL INSTITUTES.

CONTAINING

Original ANECDOTES of the PRUSSIAN COURT for the last Twenty Years.

Translated from the GERMAN,

By Mr. H O O P E R.

V O L III.

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Original Authority of the Russian  
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[illegible]

the Royal Academy, 1870.

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DEDI-

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## DEDICATORY LETTER

TO  
MONS. DE VOLTAIRE\*.

*Hamburg, May 1, 1761.*

SIR,

**B**Y taking the liberty of dedicating this inconsiderable part of my productions to you, I certainly cannot mean to convey your name to posterity, or to augment your glory; nor even to offer any thing that can afford you instruction or amusement. No, Sir, I am very sensible that never was reputation so vast, nor so justly deservd, as

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\* This letter should have been placed after the Contents in the 1st volume.

that which you enjoy. Your country has produced, in all ages, great men of every class: but the monarchy of France has existed thousands of years before it produced an author that excelled in every part of literature: who daily extends, and enriches, to use the expression, the empire of immortality by chefs d'œuvres in vers and prose: and to whom his nation is indebted for an epic poem, that will be the admiration of the most distant posterity; for there is no need of the spirit of prophecy to foretel, that if the French should have the fate of other living languages, if it should suffer great alterations, there will be found among our descendants, Daciers and Saumaïses, who will regard you a sacred ancient, and will employ all their labors in explaining you, and in rendering, in a manner, perhaps sufficiently insipid, that immens number of new, just, and brilliant ideas, which

which you have expresd, on every subject, with as much warmth as elegance, in the style of the age of Lewis XIV.

I regard you, Sir, as the chief of modern litterature, and I am highly pleasd with the opportunity of rendering you, in that quality, my public homage. The stream that bears its waters to the sea, does not, to our sight, increas its bulk or force, tho it still renders the slender tribute of its waves. I am desirous, moreover, that the whole world shoud know the admiration with which I regard you, and the friendship with which you have honord me for so many years. I do not here attempt to conceal a self love, that appears to me both natural and pardonable. Accept therefore, Sir, with that goodnes which you have shown me on so many occasions, the homage that I here offer you; and vouchsafe to assist, by the fecun-



dity of your imagination, that imbecillity with which I have expressed those sentiments that my heart entertains for you; and conclude from thence, how perfectly I am,

- S I R,

Your most humble,

and most obedient Servant,

B I E L F E L D.

LETTER I.

To Mademoiselle M. von B\*\*\*, at  
Hamburg.

Hamburg, Feb. 6, 1738.

**S**O you are quite alarm'd, Madam, very seriously angry!—My reason tells me you are wrong; but my passion tells me you can never do wrong: for it makes me perceive that I love you more, if it be possible, since I have been a Free Mason, and since you have been angry with me for so being, than I ever did before. Permit me therefore, by this opportunity,

to employ all my rhetoric to dissipate your discontent ; that you may approve the motives which have induced me to take this step, that you may restore me to your favor, and that I may be enabled to reconcile my reason with my passion.

You know that I am naturally curious, and that I have made great efforts to discover the secrets of Free Masonry, but without the least effect. I have found men that have been the most indiscreet in other respects, the most impenetrable in this matter. There was therefore no other way for me to take, but to get admission into their society ; and I do solemnly assure you, Madam, that I do not in the least repent it.

That a man may be very honest and very happy without being a Free Mason, I readily allow ; but this argument is equally applicable to every object that excites our curiosity, and even to many of the most pleasing parts of learning. If we banish curiosity, the desire of increasing our knowledge,

ledge, from the world, there is at once an end of all improvement in science: the most ingenious, the most pleasing inventions and discoveries would be lost in darknes. And who can say how far the knowledge of those objects, of whose essence, whose principles we are absolutely ignorant, may lead us? That which at first appears frivolous, frequently becoms, in the hands of a skilful man, highly useful. I do not pride myself in being of the number of these, but I am fully satisfyd that I shall have a better claim to it by being a Free Mason.

You will not require, I am perswaded, that I should explain to you our mysteries; you are much too prudent. You would entertain a passion for a man of honor, and not for a traitor, a monster. It is my interest to convince you of my discretion, and to make you sensible that a man who can keep a secret from the woman he adores, ought to be esteemd by her as worthy to have other secrets to keep. You must



must therefore commend my discretion and nourish my virtue. I shall not, at the same time, keep from you any information concerning our society that it is in my power to give: but for its mysterys, they are sacred!

One reflexion, that dissipated my scruples and hastend my reception, was, that I knew this order to be composed of a great number of very worthy men; and whom I was sure woud never have twice enterd a lodge, if any thing had pasd there that was in the least incompatible with a character of the strictest virtue. It is true, that into this sanctuary of virtue there somtimes steal unworthy brethren, men whose morals and conduct are not such as coud be wishd: but such is the condition of all things in this world, that the good and the bad are inevitably mixd with each other; for the small number of twelve apostles was not exempt from one unworthy member. I did not expect, by becoming a Free Ma-  
son

son, to be introduced to a society of angels, but of worthy men ; and I have not been disappointed.

I readily confess, that what is call'd Free Masonry may be made a disgrace as well as ornament to society. If a company of young fellows, destitute of sens and merit, assemble in the form of a lodge, and after performing certain ridiculous mummerys, proceed to scenes of debauchery, certainly nothing can be more detestable than such an assembly. But if you consider our society as the most solemn and perfect fraternity that ever existed upon the earth ; in which there is no distinction of men by the language they speak, by the dress they wear, by the rank to which they were born, or the dignities they possess ; who regard the whole world but as one republic, of which each nation forms a family, and each individual a member ; who endeavour by these means to revive the primitive maxims of mankind in the greatest perfection ; to unite

unite under their banner men of knowledge, virtue and urbanity; whose members mutually defend each other by their authority, and enlighten each other by their knowledge; who sacrifice all personal resentment; who banish from their lodges all that can disturb the tranquility of mind or the purity of manners; and who, in the intervals of their delightful labors, enjoy the innocent pleasures of life: if I say, you regard Masonry in this light, you must agree that the interest of this society must be that of the whole race of mankind; and that it must operate on the human heart in a manner that religion itself cannot effect without great difficulty.

It is not therefore wonderful, that this order has been sometimes encouraged and sometimes persecuted by the ruling powers in a state: they who commend and they who blame may have their reasons; but nothing can be more unjust or ridiculous, than to imagin that the secret assemblys of  
the



the Free Mafons can tend to disturb the fe-  
 curity or tranquility of a ftate : for tho our  
 doors are fhut againft the profane vulgar,  
 they are at all times open to fovereigns and  
 magiftrates ; and how many illuftrious  
 princes and ftatesmen do we count among  
 our brethren ? If ought pad in our lodges  
 that was dangerous or criminal, muft they  
 not have been long fince abolifhd ? But the  
 experience of many ages, during which  
 this order has never been known to per-  
 form any actions but thofe of morality and  
 munificence, is a ftronger argument in its  
 favor than any I can produce. I fhall  
 therefore fay no more on this matter ; and  
 I fhoud not have faid fo much if I did not  
 know that you are capable of feeling the  
 force of thefe arguments : for you have too  
 much difcernment to fuffer yourfelf to be  
 directed by that prejudice and caprice  
 which has fo much dominion over the com-  
 mon rank of women. If with a pleafing  
 figur, and a graceful manner, you poffed  
 only



only a common way of thinking, I should love you only as women are commonly loved, that is to say, for the gratification of desire, and for self interest. But my affection is founded on a sense of your real merit, on the dignity of your mind, and the simplicity of your heart. If this affection is of any value with you, preserve it, Madam, by returning to your reason, and by dissipating those transient clouds which have eclipsed, for a moment, that favorable opinion you have hitherto entertained of me: and permit me to assure you, by the faith of a Mason, that my love shall endure as long as my life.

I have the honor to be, &c.

P. S. I herewith send you a pair of ladies gloves, that were given me by the lodge at my reception. The apple was decreed by Paris to the most beautiful, but these gloves are for the best beloved. To whom  
coud

could I offer them but to you? May you receive them as a mark of my sincere devotion! I shall here add an apology, that one of our brothers at Paris, M. Procop, has lately made for the order of Masons. You will there find, in very pleasing vers, part of those arguments I have been just giving you in dull prose. They are as follows :

I.

QUOI mes Frères, souffrés vous,  
Que notre auguste compagnie,  
Soit sans cesse exposée aux coups  
De la plus noire calomnie?  
Non c'est trop endurer d'injurieux soupçons,  
Souffrés qu'a tous ici ma voix se fasse entendre,  
Permettés moi de leur apprendre  
Ce que cest que les Francs Maçons.

II.

Les gens de notre ordre toujours  
Gagnent a se faire connoître:  
Et je pretends par mes discours,  
Inspirer le desir de l'être

Qu'est

Qu'est ce qu'un Franc-Maçon ? en voici le portrait ;

C'est un bon citoyen, un sujet plein de zèle ;

A son prince, a l'état fidele :

Et de plus un ami parfait.

### III.

Ches nous regne une liberté

Toujours soumise a la decence.

Nous y goutons la volupté,

Mais sans que le Ciel s'en offense.

Quoique aux yeux du public, nos plaisirs soient  
secrets, [dre.

Aux plus austeres loix l'ordre fait nous astreindre

Les Franc-Maçons n'ont point a craindre

Ni les remords, ne les regrets.

### IV.

Le but, ou tendent nos desseins

Est de faire revivre Astrée,

Et de remettre les humains

Come ils étoient du tems de Rhée.

On nous voit suivre tous des sentiers peu battus :

Nous cherchons a batir, et tous nos edifices

Sont ou des cachots pour les vices,

Ou des temples pour les vertus.

Je veux avant que de finir,  
Nous disculper auprès des belles,  
Qui pensent devoir nous punir  
Du refus que nous faisons d'elles.  
S'il leur est deffendu d'entrer dans nos maisons,  
Cet ordre ne doit point exciter leur colère,  
Elle nous en loureront, j'espere  
Lors qu'elles sauront nos raisons.

## VI.

Beau sexe, nous avons pour vous  
Et du respect, et de l'estime,  
Mais aussi nous vous craignons tous,  
Et notre crainte est legitime.  
Helas ! on nous apprend pour première leçon,  
Que ce fut de vos mains qu'Adam reçut la  
pomme,  
Et que, son vos conseils, tout homme  
Natroit, peut-être, Franc-Maçon.

IMITA-



## I M I T A T I O N.

## I.

SHALL Envy's tongue, with slander foul,  
 My brothers, brand our race august,  
 Incessant shall the fury howl,  
 Licking black venom from the dust?  
 No, 'tis too much these rancorous taints to bear:  
 Rise, generous Muse! Our spotless fame  
 To the wide world aloud proclaim,  
 And what a Mason is most free declare.

## II.

In virtue clear we court the light,  
 Revered the more, the more we are known:  
 And fain the Muse would here excite,  
 Each worthy man the name to own.  
 Let the Free Mason then to all appear:  
 Behold the man each prince admires,  
 Behold the friend each man desires,  
 For ever loyal, zealous, and sincere.

## III.

Fair Liberty, with Order bland,  
 And radiant Pleasure, lov'd so well,  
 With Temperance sage, in seemly band,  
 Within our walls forever dwell.

From

From vulgar eyes our pleasures tho we screen,  
 Yet rigorous laws our acts restrain:  
 Remors or anguish ne'er can pain  
 The Masons breast, nor cloud his mind serene,

IV.

The constant aim of all our plans  
 Is to restore Aftreas reign;  
 That awful Truth may guard our lands,  
 While hateful Guile shall prowl in vain.  
 Each lonely path with structures we adorn,  
 And all the buildings which we rais,  
 Are temples that the Virtues grace;  
 Or prisons close for the foul Vices form.

V.

While thus to man our praise I sing,  
 Let not the softer sex repine,  
 Nor angry-charge against us bring,  
 That we their favors dare decline.  
 If from their steps our sanctuaries we guard,  
 When they the reason just shall know,  
 Resentment they can never show,  
 But rather with due praise our caution will reward.

VI.

## VI.

Resplendent sex ! in whom combine,  
Each brilliant charm, each tender grace ;  
With awe we bow before your shrine,  
But still we fear you while we praise ;  
For in our earliest lesson is it said ;  
If Adam had but once withstood,  
By female charms what seemd so good,  
Nature each man, tis like, a Mason woud have  
made.

LETTER



## L E T T E R II.

To M. von B \* \* \* at Schwerin.

SIR, *Hambourg, June 6, 1738.*

**Y**OU could not give me more agreeable or more interesting news, than the return of M. von E——to Schwerin: for I owe him infinit obligations. I endeavour to discharge this debt in part, by those sentiments of gratitude, admiration, and respect which I entertain for him; but unhappily I am constrained to confine them to my heart, till fortune shall furnish me with the means of realizing that barren acknowledgment which I have made him in the enclod letter, and which I intreat you will communicate to him. Has not the life of this gallant man, Sir, been checkerd with very singular revolutions? Born a

VOL. III.                      B                      Silesian



Silesian gentleman, he consecrated all his youth to study, and made a most happy progres in the sciences. Inundations, wars, every possible calamity, fell upon his father, and reduced him to a state of indigence. Merit, in the uniform of misfortune, finds it extremely difficult to advance, in a country where external pomp and splendor are regarded as matters of importance. Young M. von E——, maugre all his talents and all his efforts, could find no opportunity of succeeding in his own country, but was obliged to follow his fortune to the banks of the Elbe. He changed his name, and came to Hambourg. You know, Sir, that in a commercial city it is the caduce of Mercury which is the sceptre that distributes honors and dispenses riches. The disciples of Apollo and Minerva march slowly on, and by an obscure circuit, to the temple of the blind goddess. M. von E—— was obliged to take on him the profession of a Mentor, and found in his learning a resource against indigence.

My

My father made the acquisition of his talents. This was the first and the greatest happiness of my life; but by which unfortunately I did not profit so much as I ought. The charms of pleasure and the impetuosity of passion, hurry us in our youth toward the luxuries of Epicurus, and hide from us those of Lucretius; I mean those real pleasures which arise for the study of the sciences and the arts. Nevertheless I did not fail to acquire some sound learning under so able a preceptor. But M. von E—— soon found the sphere of Hambourg too small for his talents, and sought after better engagements. In fact it was there, being in a manner the director of a puppet-show. His merit became known at the court of his Serene Highness the duke of Mecklenbourg, and he was appointed to the important employ of sub governor to the hereditary prince. You know, Sir, perfectly well, that he acquitted himself in a manner worthy of his charge, and that after having conducted his illustrious pupil through the

career of his youthful studys, he resign'd him, endow'd with the most noble accomplishments, into the hands of the duke his father. That prince, so wise and good, the court and the whole people have been equally contented with the succes of M. von E——. It gives me the utmost pleasure, Sir, to learn by your letter, that he has succeeded equally well in his commission to the court of Russia, and that he is returned loaded with presents and honors. If my wishes are fulfill'd, he will continue to enjoy many years, in that very honorable post where his Highness the duke has placed him; the approbation of his master, and all those advantages, which a subject so able and so upright as himself, has reason to expect from his faithful services. As he has formerly vouchsafed me the strongest marks of tender affection, I entreat that you will endeavour to secure to me for the future, a small part of his kind regards: as I shall labor to deserve the continuance of them, and if it be possible,

L E T T E R III. 29

fible, to do honor to that education which he has given me.

I am, Sir, Your, &c.



L E T T E R III.

To Baron von \* \* \* at Hambourg.

*From my Domicil, July 20, 1738.*

Most venerable Master,

**Y**OU behave toward me, not as a brother, but as a father Mason. You are desirous that I should participate of the glory of receiving the prince royal of Prussia into our order. I am fully sensible of the high value of this favor, and am ready to accompany you to Brunswick, and there to regulate the reception. It appears by the letter of the count of Lippe Buckebourg, that the idea of becoming a Free Mason struck that great prince in a manner very singular. You cannot but admire,

B 3

most



most venerable, the concatenation of uncommon events. It was necessary that the king of Prussia should come with a numerous retinue to Loo, to visit the prince of Orange; that he should be accompanied by the prince royal; that at table the conversation should turn on free masonry; that the king should speak of it disadvantageously; that count Lippe should undertake its defence; that he should not be dazzled by the authority of majesty; but that with a noble freedom he should avow himself to be a free-mason; that, on going out from the entertainment, the prince royal should express to him in confidence, a desire of becoming a member of that society, and that he should wish his reception to be at Brunswick, where the king his father had resolved to go, and where the concours of strangers of every sort, during the approaching fair, will give less suspicion of the arrival of the brother masons, who are invited to come there to form a lodge for that purpose; that count Lippe should address

dres himself, Sir, to you, to procure to our order this glorious acquisition, and that your friendship should induce you to remember me, that I also might be of the party. Behold, most venerable, a series of remarkable incidents, which make me prophesy a favorable issue to this enterprise. You know that my present station is displeasing, and my country irksome to me. I resemble one of those plants which are nothing worth if not transplanted. At Hambourg I shall, at most, run up to seed and perish. Perhaps the Great Disposer of the univers will give me a better fortune, and will lay the foundations of it at Brunswick. I am preparing all things for my journey. For the rest, I know perfectly well how necessary it is to observe a profound silence with regard to an expedition of so much delicacy. Do me the justice to believe me to be, with all the zeal, and all the attachment of a mason, &c.



## L E T T E R IV.

To M. von St. \* \* \* at Hambourg.

*Brunswick, August 24, 1738.*

Y OUR vilanous fever, my most dear brother, appears to me more insolent than that of the princess Urania. It has not only attackd you in the flower of your days, but has laid this snare for you at a period that might have influenced all the remainder of your life. It has deprived you of the glory and the advantage of having assisted at the reception of the prince roial of Prussia, and of there performing the office of overseer, to which you was appointed. How unfortunate ! “ Turn it “ out then, whatever may be said of your “ rich appartment, this vilanous fever,” and be radically cured against our return. We do not expect to make any long stay  
at



at Brunswick, because there is here one crownd head too many, who might discover that we have receivd the prince his son into our order, and in his ill humor might be wanting in respect to the most venerable.

In the mean time, my dear brother, I shall acquit myself of my promis, and here employ the first moments of my leisure, in giving you an exact account of our journey and succes.

We left Hambourg, Baron O——, Baron L——, and myself, the tenth of August, and arrived the next evening at the gates of Brunswick. The officers of the customs began to examin our baggage. This authoritative ceremony put us into a great consternation. Judge of our embarrassment. We had with us a large trunk filld with the furniture, insigns, and instruments necessary for holding a Lodge. All these might be deemd contraband, notwithstanding the privilege of the fair. We held a council instantly. If the officer shoud persist in opening the trunk, there was nothing to



# 34 LETTER IV.

be done but to declare ourselves conjurers or mountebanks. But we were soon easd of our fears; for by virtue of a ducat which I slipd into the officers hand, he declared that we were persons of quality, and incapable of defrauding the customs.

We took up our quarters at the hotel of Corn: it is the principal inn of the town; any where els it woud be reckond a tolerable good alehous. Count L——, count K——, and baron A—— of Hanover, arrived there almost at the same instant, and joind us the same night. Rabon, valet de chambre to M. O——, and a good mason, was appointed to do the dutys of a tiler, and acquitted himself to a miracle.

The next morning, the cannons of the rampart declared the arrival of the king of Prussia and his train. The presence of a crownd head, and the affluence of all sorts of strangers, which the fair has brought to Brunswick, makes the town appear highly animated. We agreed that none of us shoud appear at court, except count L——

whom we deputed to the prince roial to receive his orders, relative to the day, the hour, and place of his reception. H. R. H. appointed the night between the 14th and 15th, and chose it should be in our apartment, which was in fact very spacious, and quite convenient for the business. There was only one inconvenience, which was the vicinity of M. W——who lived in the apartment adjoining to our antichamber, and was separated from it only by a thin partition. He might therefore have heard all, and told all. This reflexion alarmed us; but as our Hanoverian brethren knew the hour at which he was wont to drown, as the song says, his sorrowful reason in wine, we seized his foible; we attacked him, by turns, after dinner, and being prepared to encounter with him at chinking of glasses, we left him toward night so fast, that he would have slept by the side of a battery; and the thyrsus of Bacchus served us, on this occasion, as effectually as could have done the finger of the god Harpocrates.

On the 14th the whole day was spent in preparations for the lodge; and a litle after midnight we saw arrive the prince roial, accompanyd by count W——, captain in the kings regiment at Potsdam. The prince presented this gentleman as a candidate whom he recommended; and whose reception he wishd immediately to succeed his own. He desired us likewise to omit in his reception not any one rigorous ceremony, that was used in similar cases; to grant him no indulgence whatever; but gave us leave on this occasion to treat him merely as a private person. In a word, he was received with all the usual and requisit formalitys. I admired his intrepidity, the serenity of his countenance, and his graceful deportment, even in the most critical moments. I had prepared a short addres, of which he testifyd his approbation. After the two receptions, we opened the lodge, and proceeded to our work. He appeared highly delighted, and acquitted himself with as much dexterity as discernment.

I do



I do assure you, my dear brother, that I have conceived very great expectations from this prince. He is not of a remarkable stature; and would not have been chosen to have ruled in the place of Saul; but when we consider the strength and beauty of his genius, we cannot but desire, for the prosperity of the people, to see him fill the throne of Prussia. His features are highly pleasing, with a sprightly look and a noble air; and it depends altogether on himself to appear perfectly engaging. A petit maître of Paris would not perhaps admire his Frisure; his hair however is of a bright brown, carelessly curld, but well adapted to his countenance. His large blue eyes have at once something severe, soft, and gracious. I was surprized to find in him so youthful an air\*. His behavior in every respect, is that of a person of ex-

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\* The prince was at this time in his twenty-seventh year.



alted rank, and he is the most polite man in all that kingdom over which he is born to rule. He gave to T. V. Master B. von O. \* \* \* the most delicate and flattering instances of regard. I say nothing of his moral qualitys : it would be difficult to discern them at one interview ; but I protest to you, that there was no part of his conversation which did not mark great dignity of mind, and the utmost benevolence of temper : and for the truth of this I appeal to the public voice.

All was finished soon after four in the morning : the prince returned to the dukes palace ; and in all appearance as well satisfied with us, as we were charmd with him. I hastend to bed, completely fatigued with the business of this fair day \*.

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\* The free masons have certainly good reason to plume themselves on having for their brother, one who is undoubtedly the greatest genius of any prince in Europe : but if they think that this, or any other relation, will supply with that wise prince the place of merit ; they are greatly deceived. Sometime since, a free-mason

## LETTER V. 39

We shall send to day, to receive from our most illustrious brother, orders relative to our return. To night we shall go to the Italian Opera, which they say is a very fine one; and to morrow, I believe, we shall set off for Hambourg, where I well hope for the pleasure of embracing you. I am, &c.



## LETTER V.

To M. von E \* \* \* at Schwerin.

*Hambourg, Mar. 12, 1739.*

SIR,

**I**T is you that have formd my mind and my heart: I have therefore a sort of right to regard you as my father,

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mason, they say, endeavourd to intrude himself on the king by virtue of this connexion, but the monarch finding that the man had no other merit, took no notice of him; he therefore determind to enforce his application by making the king a sign, which he answered, by turning his back upon his brother mason, and lifting up the hind flap of his coat.

and

and perhaps as something more. This, Sir, is the tender and sacred title, which authorises me to ask your advice, in an affair which is to me the most important in the world, as it regards a determination on which depends the future happiness or misery of my life. I think I see you at this moment. You knit your brow, you wrinkle your forehead, you smile, but it is with a mixture of severity, and you softly say; so then! my young starling is caught by love in the matrimonial trap! No, Sir, no, be satisfied it is not so. I am thoughtless I confess, but not so thoughtless as that comes to. I have remarked, that when a man is married, all the women look upon him as a mere hors d'oeuvre; the most sprightly eyes have no vivacity for him; his chaste moiety alone, loads him with caresses, but with so cold a tone that the blood freezes in my veins when I think on it. Who can bear the ridicule of the arch looks, demure countenance, and precise compliments of a fine woman? and who constantly



constantly seems to say at the same time, "pray take notice, that I behave as be-comes a woman of honor." In fact, Sir, this farce, exhibited in public, and constantly repeated, woud be insupportable to me. There is no passion so strong, over which time, aided by a lawful enjoyment, does not triumph : and matrimony is an eternal engagement. It is embarking on a sea whose bounds no one knows, and where one of the two who embark together must necessarily perish. I am speaking all the time of those happy matches only, which are pointed out by all the world, and which a thousand marryd people envy. But what misery when such a match is badly made? You have made me read in the History of the Church, that the most cruel martyrdom, which the Christians were made to suffer in the first persecutions was, the tying living, to dead bodys, and making them perish by their loathsom companions. Whenever I see a fine woman bound in the bonds of wedlock



lock to an ugly bear, or a blooming youth to a filthy sow, I have said to myself, alas! poor victim! thou must perish like the primitive martyrs! No, my dear Mentor, it is no such matter; I will preserve as long as possible, that influence which I have now over the lovely fair ones: for I should think myself guilty of treachery to the whole sex, to marry in these early days. The business I have here to propose is of a very different nature. The moment is arrived in which Providence seems to point out to me the career of my fortune, and to determine me in fixing my station in life. The state of the case, Sir, is this:

The prince royal of Prussia, to whom I have had, by a singular event, the honor of making my court at the fair at Brunswick, has sent hither the count of Troupes Waldbourg, colonel in the service of the king his father. This gentleman is tall, and well made, and commands our esteem by his birth, his figure, his noble air, and by the charms of a most agreeable conver-

conversation. Among several other commissions he was directed to call on me, and to discover if I had any inclination to enter into the service of his R. H. He made the proposition in form. This question, I confes to you, Sir, disconcerted me greatly. A thousand confused ideas rushd at once upon my mind; but to gain time for more mature consideration, I replyd with reserve, that the life of a courtier appeard to me to have many alluring charms, but that hitherto I had been only able to judge of it by exterior appearances: that I shoud be very glad to find an opportunity of becoming acquainted with the intrinsic merit of a court, especialy of that where I proposd to fix my station, for that it was not natural to have an affection for any object, without being first acquainted with it. The count approv'd of my observation; and we agreed that I shoud repair to Rheinsburg, a pleasur palace where the prince roial frequently holds his court, and where he will permit me to offer the first instances of  
my

my devotion. The Baron von D\*\*\*, on whom I suppose there are like views, is to be of the party, and we shall travel together. In the mean time I endeavour to render count Troughses every little service that is in my power, to facilitate all his commissions, and to procure him every amusement which this city can afford.

Behold, Sir, a very brilliant prospect, but a very troublesome road, and one that may chance to lead to a precipice. Vouchsafe, for a moment, to lay aside that extreme politeness which is natural to you, and that excess of predilection which you entertain for me: assume again your ancient right of governor, speak to me with that freedom, and with that republican spirit of truth, of which you contracted so noble a habit at Hambourg; and not in the enameld dialect of a court, which leaves so much room for equivocation, and which favors so little of friendship.

Do you think me formed for a court?  
Am I of a composition that may be useful  
or



agreeable to a great prince ? and to such a prince ? who is perhaps on the eve of mounting one of the first thrones in Europe, and who is prepared to fill it with all the accomplishments of a Cæsar ; who is at this instant studying his part in a retreat, and who has already attracted the regards and the wishes of every nation. The Prussians especially, who at this day resemble those idolaters that while they waited the rising of the sun, admired, full of expectations, the beauty of the preceding aurora : I, indeed, admire with them, but it is with trembling. I shudder when I think I am to approach so near, and do not know whether my slight texture can bear the fervor of his rays : I am fearful of being calcined instead of becoming polished and durable. I implore your aid, Sir, either to fortify my resolution, or dissipate my anxieties. No one knows so well as you the little merit that I have, and all that belongs to the theatre of a court. Guide therefore my steps, my voice, my action, my whole conduct  
on



on this theatre, so strange to me! for without your instructions I shall make but a bad entrance on this stage, and repeated hisses will inevitably drive me off.

I have the honor to be, &c.



## L E T T E R VI.

To Madam Von \* \* \* \* at  
Hambourg.

*Rheinsberg, Aug. 21, 1739.*

MADAM,

**T**H O we are on the point, M. von O \*\* and myself, of quitting Rheinsberg, I think I shoud preface my return to Hambourg, with this account of our journey. I forsee it will be a long one, for I have many things to tell you. If satiety shoud surprise you when you have got but half way through it, remember that it is not altogether my fault, for it  
was

was your pleasure to have every thing in detail, and I am ignorant of the art of disobeying your commands.

That there might be no suspicion of the motive of our journey, the prince royal had orderd us, as you know, to proceed strait to Berlin, and to assume the appearance of strangers drawn thither by curiosity. We arrivd quite safe, in a very decent equipage, and at the same time sufficiently splendid to draw attention. I was struck with the beauty of this city. My extreme prejudice for Paris, had made me believe I should never after see any thing of the kind that was magnificent; but I protest to you that Berlin is very little inferior, either in the extent for circuit, the grandeur and elegance of building, or the form and disposition of the streets. This city has even something in it more elegant and chearful than Paris. The river Spree runs thro it, and is there divided into two large branches, on the borders of which are formd very handfom quays, and over  
which

which are constructed several bridges that are at once solid, and of an elegant architecture. The principal bridge especially, which leads to the palace, is remarkably grand. We there see the equestrian statue of the great elector Frederic William in bronz, on a pedestal of white marble, with four slaves at the angles, which are likewise in bronz. This piece is finely executed after the design of the famous Schluter, architect to Frederic, the first king of Prussia. There are found dispersed in several quarters of Berlin, admirable monuments of the ability of this artist, as well as of that of the illustrious general Bott, his celebrated rival. The palace, the arsenal, the foundery for cannon, the academy of sculpture, several churches, and the front of the post-hous, are pieces of architecture as perfect as any that are to be found on this side the Alps. I shall not attempt a description of these, as you will find them in the Memoirs of Baron Pollnitz, which you take so much pleasure in reading. There are



## L E T T E R VI. . 49

are very few parts of Berlin where there are now to be found any remains of Gothic architecture. The taste of ancient Greece, of Rome, and modern Italy, prevails in general in all the new edifices. The king greatly encourages building, by giving to his subjects the materials for construction, and leaving them to pay for the workmanship only. So that we see streets, quarters, suburbs, of entire new buildings: but it is to be lamented that the disposition of these quarters, and the connexion of the streets, has not been formed on a more eligible plan. On the whole, it appears to me that the king has but little taste, and that he will leave to his son, even in Berlin itself, many deficiencies to supply, and numberless occasions of displaying his taste and sublime talents.

On entering Berlin by the gate of Charlottenbourg, we first traverse a handsome place that is called the Square, and from thence we pass to the new town, under a long range of six rows of lime trees, which



oertop the roofs of the houses that border this street, which is of a very uncommon width, and has an enclosur in the midle, that forms a public walk, and the alleys on each side of it serve as a cours for the coaches. On going out from this walk we discover at once the academy, the palace of the prince roial, the arsenal, and the kings palace. It was eleven in forenoon; the day was as serene and bright as can possibly be imagined; and two battalions of infantry, with a squadron of hussars, were ranged on the parade, in the garden before the kings palace. I confes to you, Madam, that this group of fine buildings, and the first sight of the Prussian troops under arms, struck me with rapture: but I did not long remain so: for our postilion who was not so rapt with the sight, drove furiously on, and in an instant we found ourselves at the hotel of Vincent, in the Brothers Street. This is one of the best inns of Germany. Every thing is here in the French taste; there is good lodg-  
ing,

ing, good bedding, good eating and drinking, and all at very reasonable rates.

We notifyd our arrival first to count Troughses, who had the politenes to wait on us as soon as the parade was over. We returned him the visit after dinner. I shoud rejoyce, Madam, if you could see his dwelling. It is neither a hous, nor a tent, nor an empty hut, nor a grand building, in short, there is no particular word by which we can distinguish it. It is an assemblage of a great number of rooms, of a saloon, a gallery, a grotto, and several closets, all on the ground floor, without any particular entrance, or any thing that can be calld a front; and nevertheless very convenient, very well disposed, and furnishd with a great deal of taste, tho without magnificence. The dining room looks into a large garden, that is made out of an old rampart, and is consequently as irregular and odd as the hous, and at the same time not less agreeable; all the walks consist of alleys terminated by abrupt  
C 2 angles.

angles. Over the outside of the dining-room there is a pediment in the Italian taste, which is decorated by three small statues that represent three genii. The first holds the plan of the building; the second a purse, which he opens, and shuts his eyes at the same time; and the third is scratching his ears. A droll but true representation of what has literally happen'd to poor count Troughses, and which has happen'd to many more worthy men, who in all other respects have been as wise as Solomon; but have had like him a passion for building.

It is a very amiable mortal, this same count of Troughses, with respect to society! There is something in his conversation which appears to me so sprightly, that it too frequently makes that of others seem dull: it is judiciously season'd with the precise dose of attic salt, and always accompany'd with the court air. I have scarce stir'd out of his house, and he has loaded me with favors, in that polite manner  
which

which is natural to him. He has a thousand virtues, a thousand good qualities, with some small faults, which form, so to say, the shades of the picture, and make it more agreeable than one that were strictly faultless, if such a one were possible. The greatest of his defects is that of not being a good master, and of growling incessantly at his domestics, even in the presence of his visitors. He has among others an old valet, who is the eternal object of his ill humor, the plastron of all his furious attacks. This poor fellow cannot cross his apartment without incurring some invective. If he steps quick and firm, his master presently exclaims, "See there! that old scoundrel is shod with iron, he shakes the walls, and makes the glasses tremble." If he go softly and on tiptoe, Troughses crys out, "March, you dog! are you lame? must you bait by the way?" In short, with him the door is never open nor shut..

For the rest, Madam, we have had at



Berlin a most gracious reception in many of the principal houses, especially in those of the marquis Von V——, and at count K——, who are both gentlemen of distinguished merit: at Madam Von K——, daughter of count G——, who is ambassador from the court of Russia at the Hague; and who is one of the most amiable, the most witty, and at the same time most virtuous ladies in the world. I think I could live with her in a desert island, without ever wishing for other company.

I have also contracted an acquaintance with the marquis de Ch ——, who passed thro Berlin in his way to Petersbourg, in quality of ambassador from France. He talks like an oracle to the men, and says many fine things to the ladies. The Berlinians never swear but by him. The prince royal appears to have a regard for him. He has a very brilliant attendance: gentlemen of the embassy, pages, secretaries in abundance, a maitre d'hotel, an almoner, a numerous train of domestics, and in short every

every thing calculated to impose on the ancient Scythians.

Lastly, Madam, we have performd the accustomed employments of travelers : we have seen the principal curiosities of Berlin, the palace, the arsenal, the chamber of rarities, the cabinet of natural history, the library, the foundery, &c. In all these there are some things that are highly excellent, but those who have any discernment do not, you know, admire every object they behold ; but content themselves with sometimes testifying their approbation.

The environs of Berlin are of a sandy soil, and not very pleasant. It is not easy to conceive why the ancient sovereigns of this country did not establish their residence at Brandebourg rather than Berlin, for the former is the natural capital of their dominions, is situate in a charming country, and on the borders of the river Havel ; whereas the latter is surrounded by a sandy desert, where nature produces scarce any

thing, but all is the work of art. There is a village however that was shewn me, at a small distance from this city, which is called Buckholtz, and which is situate on a delightful spot. It is inhabited entirely by the French : they have here a handsom church, and a protestant pastor of their own nation, and their habitations which are built in the rural style, are at once elegant and convenient. It is a sight singular enough, to see in the centre of Germany, a village where they speak nothing but French : they assure me that there are several of the same kind in this country. The French refugees and the natives of Brandenbourg have reciprocal and great obligations to each other. The former have found an asylum in that land, and have there acquired fortunes, to which they could not have aspired in their own country : and in return they have taught the natives, arts, manufactures, and the cultivation of the earth : for the Marche produced formerly no vegetable but parsley ;  
whereas

whereas we now see the country round Berlin abound in fruits, flowers, and plants of every kind, and of an exquisit taste. Thanks to the manure which the refugees have pointed out to the gardeners of the country.

His highnes the prince roial has orderd us to remain yet eight days at Rheinsberg: so that I may still write you two more letters, of which the one may relate to our sojourn at Potsdam, and the other to that at Rheinsberg. This in the mean time is already too long. I must now give you time to take breath. Notwithstanding the grandeurs and pleasurs with which I am furrounded, be assured, Madam, that there is no moment of my life in which I am not, &c.





## L E T T E R VII.

To the same.

*Rheinsberg, Oct. 16, 1739.*

**T**HE prince roial gave us to understand that he had reasons for wishing we woud make a tour to Potzdam, and we did not fail to obey his orders. This city, which is much smaller than the capital, is the ordinary residence of the king, and his regiment is there in garrison. It is situate on the borders of the Havel, or rather on a peninsula formd by that river, at about twelve miles distance from Berlin, and in a low and marshy ground. When you are on the eminences which furround Potzdam, you see it encompassd by water on every side, as far as the view extends. Several isles and presq'isles seem to rise out  
of

of the bosom of the water; and Potzdam being built on one of these, has, on the side next the palace and the kings garden, something of the air of Venice. This situation renders the air damp and unwholsom, and the streets constantly dirty. One quarter excepted, which is built exactly in the taste of the towns of North Holland, and where the inhabitants, for the most part Dutch, preserve the neat appearance of their own country. There are two handsom squares planted with lime trees in the form of a quincunx, which afford most agreeable walks. The most elegant of these squares, was originally nothing but an ugly swamp, and from its exhalations was calld the muddy lake. The king determind to cover it over, and for that purpose causd an immens number of piles to be drove into it, in order to secure the foundation: but early one morning they were greatly astonishd to find the whole work renversd, so that the points of the largest piles were at top, and all

the sand that had been heapd over them, was sunk to the bottom. They have never been able to conceive by what subterraneous efforts this enormous mass of earth, sustaind, so to say, by a forest of trees, was thus turnd topsyturvy. Frederic William, great oeconomist as he is, could only laugh at this accident, and at last, by dint of money and labor, accomplishd his design, gave to his marsh a solid foundation, coverd it over and planted it with pleasant allys. This monarch does not appear to me so avaritious as he is described. He loves oeconomy and regularity, but they have given me instances of his generosity which deserve to be transmitted to posterity. He regards no expence in those grand objects which make part of his system, or flatter his natural disposition, altho he frequently regrets a trifling expence for small matters. He has declared, they say, that he has burnd the account of three of his principal expences, which are, what it cost him to repeople Prussia after the devasta-



devastations of the plague, in the last years of his father Frederic I. the expence of buildings constructed during his reign at Berlin and Potzdam; and what his tall regiment has cost him; the knowledge of which he woud be ashamd shoud come to his successors. There is in fact reason to believe that these three articles have cost him immens sums. But what surprises me most is, that he shoud choose so unwholsom a spot for the garrison of this regiment; and that he shoud cloth these men, whose acquisition and maintainance are attended with so prodigious an expence, in such a scanty uniform as is not sufficient to protect them from the intemperance of the climate; and at the same time so straight, especially about the arms, as must impede the circulation, and oblige the blood to retire in greater quantitys to the internal parts, and principally toward the breast, and from whence come those frequent expectorations of blood to which the soldiers are liable during their exercise.

That



That men in general, and a soldier in particular, should be dressed after the German or French, the Spanish or Turkish fashion, is an object of very little consequence to any one who is directed by reason; and the more as use makes every thing indifferent to the eye, and as it is possible to give a grace to every kind of accoutrement. A sovereign however should endeavor to introduce among his subjects, and especially in his army, that sort of dress which is not prejudicial to health; but one that is convenient and at the same time protects the body. As I passed the cemetery of this garrison, which is at the gates of Potzdamm, I said to my fellow-traveller, "See there, Sir, the dearest spot of ground of any of the kings dominions." In fact, it is a gulph which incessantly swallows up those immense sums that the king pays for recruits for his tall regiment.

We arrived at Potzdamm, furnished with letters of ample recommendation, on Saturday

turday evening, and on Sunday morning we were waked by the found of about a hundred drums. This place resembles the palace of Pharasmane, of which that war-like king himself says \*,

“Jusques aux Courtisans qui me rendent  
“hommage.

“Mon Palais, tout ici, n’a qu’un faste  
“sauvage :

“La nature marâtre en ces affreux climats,  
“Ne produit, au lieu d’or, que du fer,  
“des Soldats.”

“Even the courtiers who do me homage,  
“my palace, every object that surrounds  
“me, has an air of savage pomp : and step-  
“dame natur, in this horrible climate, pro-  
“duces instead of gold nothing but arms  
“and soldiers.”

The military music made us dispatch our toilet ; we slipd on our cloths and repaired to the parade, where we saw all the grand regiment defile, dresd in their

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\* Tragedy of Rhadamiste and Zenobia.

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finest accoutrements, but without any arms but swords. They are here led to the temple of the God of Battles, as to the field of Mars, and the sermon or mass, makes a part of military discipline; they even call it the “church exercise.” I am sensible, Madam, that it would be much more proper to send you the description of a splendid entertainment, or a nuptial procession, than the march of these sons of Mars; but as you love the military, as the kings regiment is the most famous in Europe, and as without having recours to fiction, I can tell you nothing remarkable of Potzdam, that you do not already know; rest content for this time with my martial description. The uniform of this regiment, the only one of the kind, is blue, embroidered with small gold Brandenbourgs, lined with red, with small scarlet cuffs: the waistcoat and breeches of a shamey colored cloth; and white spatterdashes. When we meet in a foreign country with a Prussian officer or soldier, I agree that there is something



something mean and perhaps ridiculous in the look of his dres. Dont you remember that the Harlequin of the French company, putting on the coat of a Prussian foot soldier, said to the pit, "Messieurs, me viola "en juste au cul \*;" but notwithstanding this buffoonery, I do assure you that the sight of a whole regiment dresd in this manner, is by no means unpleasing: on the contrary, these short coats give a spruce and easy air to the soldier, and are very convenient in a march, and in all military operations. The sight of this grand regiment struck me exceedingly. The haut-boys very richly bedaubd, began the march, and were followd by some fifes and drummers. All the fifes are handsom negroes, very finely dresd, with turbans ornamented

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"Just au corps" is French for a coat, and by "just a cul," this merry gentleman meant, that his coat came down only to his rump. The wit lying here in the words *corps* and *cul*, unhappily cannot be translated.

with



with plumes of feathers, and very elegant chains and ear-rings of solid silver. Each company was preceded by fifes and drums, and led by its captain and other officers. After the two battallions had filed off, came the "uncorporated," as they are calld: these are men selected for their stature from out all the regiment, and who receive an extraordinary pay, are regarded supernumerarys, and do scarce any duty. The sight of this troop more astonishd than pleasd me. They appeard to me like so many walking colosses; but natur seems to have been entirely occupyd with giving them an uncommon statur, for they have litle symetry, or regular proportion in their figures: the most part of these giants have either an ugly aspect, are bowlegged, or ill made in some part of their bodys: so that we may say in general, that this regiment is more marvelous than fine. The grenadiers, not so tall as the others, but better made, please me the most. After the church exercise, the king took coach to go to Wusterhausen,

Wusterhausen, where H. M. takes the diversion of hunting during the autumn; and where he has an incredible quantity of game. I have therefore seen this prince only en passant. If we judge by his portraits, he was in his youth perfectly handsome, but it must be confessed that he does not now retain any traces of beauty. His eyes are indeed lively, but his looks are frightful; his complexion is composed of a mixture of a high red, blue, yellow and green; his head is large, his neck is quite sunk between his shoulders, and his figure is short and gross.

The king was no sooner gone than all the officers repaired to the church of the garrison, and engaged us to accompany them. Never, Madam, did I find myself so diminutive as in the midst of these devout giants. Whenever they stood up at their prayers, I thought myself a pigmy; I was obliged to hold my head back when I would observe their physiognomies. The soldiers as well as officers, attended the divine

vine service with great decency, and with an air of much devotion. Mine, I must ingenuously confess, was a little distracted by the novelty of the sight, and by certain reflexions which I could not forbear making. The church appeared to me like a grand cabinet, where some curious monarch had amassed a very extraordinary collection of men of the tallest stature, from the four quarters of the world. Under the pulpit I observed an iron grate, which closed the entrance of a vault, where the king intends to be deposited after his decease. I was surprised to see at the sides of this grate two statues of white marble, that had the look of two centinels, and which represented Mars and Bellona. It seemed strange to me to find two heathen deities in a Christian church.

When we came out of the church they carryd us to the parade, where we found part of the garrison under arms. They went thro their exercise with an exactitude which surpasses all that has been said of them. To form an idea of it, it is necessary to see it;



it; and I protest to you, that since the deluge I do not think there has been on the earth a troop of warriors that made so marvellous an appearance and of so extraordinary a stature, and that performd their exercise so much dexterity.

Colonel W——, who commands this superb regiment, did us the honor to invite us to dinner. On entering his hous we found a score of the principal officers. We sat down to table, had a very good dinner, and they who loved the old nectar of the Rhine, were plentifully imbrued. All these corpulent machines are great wine bibbers, they pour down the bumpers with a facility and good will, truly Germanic. It is part of the etiquette at Potzdam to place, at the beginning of the entertainment, a number of bottles on the side-board; when the butler brings them in, the visages of the guests begin to brighten; and as they becom empty they are ranged upon the floor, in form of a battallion. The longer the file of these  
dead



dead men is, the gayer has been the dinner. It must be confesd however, that among these officers, there are a number of men of sens and merit, whose conversation is equally instructive and agreeable. As far as I am able to judge, there appears to be in general, plenty of genius in the Prussian nation, and a very good taste among the nobility of both sexes. They treated me with much politeness at table, and caressed me very heartily after. I found opportunity to tell some pleasant storys, and to turn the discours to topics that were within my sphere. The company appeard to be pleasd with my conversation, and about the sixth large bumper, that surly air, which had at first almost frightend me, began to disappear, and we became familiar with each other.

The entertainment being over, captain W—— † invited the company to take cof-

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† The name of this officer became celebrated in the three wars, and he fell in the last; after having arrived,

fee at his hous. After this, they sent for the hautboys of the regiment, and pre-  
pard for a dance. I turnd my eyes to every  
side, expecting to see some ladys enter :  
but I was when a manner stupifyd when one  
of these descendants of Hanak, with a  
ruby and weather beaten face, presented  
me his hand to open the ball. I had al-  
ways thought that the minuet was a kind  
of pantomime, which represented by atti-  
tudes and expreffions, an amorous ren-  
counter ; a declaration, a mutual desire  
to please, an inclination to receive the  
addres, by giving the hand ; a doubt, and  
on a sudden reflexion, a short separation,  
and at last, a happy conclusion, by join-  
ing both hands, and conducting the lady  
to the place where the solicitation first be-  
gan. Whether this idea be just or not, it  
was what I had conceivd ; and it naturally

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rived, by his valour and merit, to that degree of a  
lieutenant-general.

follows, that having this notion of the matter, I could not but be greatly embarrassed when the proposition was made me to dance with a man, under these circumstances. God forgive me ! but it raised an odd suspicion in my mind, that these gentlemen who have so much outward austerity, may not at bottom be very obdurate. They did not give me however much time for reflexion, for dance I must ; and so did M. von O——. The commanders of the regiment danced, and all the officers danced ; and this masculine ball became toward the conclusion animated, thanks to the repeated bumpers of champagne, which they made us drink by way of refreshment. About eight in the evening most of these terrible warriors declined the combat, their huge limbs were no longer able to encounter with Bacchus and Terpsichore, and they went staggering off. It was proposed to me to make a visit to the countess von ——, who had an assembly of ladies at her house. I thought myself



self stronger than I was, and agreed to go there in an open chaise. Our blundering coachman drove against a post, the officer my companion was thrown out by the shock, and fell upon the pavement like a sack of flower. When we came to the assembly, they thought me very cool and sober, in comparison with some of the champions in our bacchanal combat, who had already got there, one of whom had set himself down between two chairs, and was absolutely unable to get up again. So that I passed for a redoubted hero in the conflict of the glasses. I found it necessary however, in order to preserve the glory I had obtained, to make a prudent retreat, so that in fact I hastened to bed, and slept profoundly under the shade of my laurels, or if you please, vine leaves. The next day, after seeing all that is remarkable in Potsdam, we returned soberly to Berlin.

Here, Madam, you have again a long letter, or rather a long narrative. It has without doubt tired you: for I have not

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the talent of making such dry matter become agreeable by the aid of ornaments: but I have however obeyd your commands.



L E T T E R    V I I I .

To the same.

*Rheinsberg, Oct. 30, 1739.*

MADAM,

**I**N making you the description of our sojourn at Berlin and Potzdam, I have presented you with a picture in the style of Rembrandt; I shall now offer you one in the manner of Watteau, by giving you a description of Rheinsberg, and of the pleasures we here enjoy. This is a small but very pleasing city, altho situate in a most barren sand, on the frontiers of Mecklenbourg. It contains about a thousand inhabitants, and was formerly the property of

of a French refugee gentleman. The king has purchased it, and given it to the prince roial, with the castle, the gardens, the forests, and some lands that are dependent on it. The castle was, in a manner, in ruins, and there was scarce any garden when the prince obtained the gift; and which is the more valuable to him as his regiment is in garrison at Ruppin, which is but six miles from hence, and in this country the garrisons never change. The situation of the castle itself is very fine. An immens lake bathes almost its foundations; and on the oposit side, a beautiful forest of oaks and beech rises in form of an amphitheatre. The ancient building consisted of only one range of rooms, with a wing terminated by an old tower. This edifice and its situation, gave to the prince roial an opportunity of displaying his genius and his taste; and to baron Knobellstorff, intendant of the buildings, his talent for architecture. The main body was repaired, and embellishd externally with archd windows,



dows, and very elegant statues and ornaments; another wing and tower are added, which correspond with the old ones; and the two towers are connected by a double colonade, on the platform of which is a gallery of communication, that is ornamented with vases and groups of infants. By this arrangement the whole building now forms an exact square. We are led to it by a bridge decorated with statues representing the seven planets, and which each holds in his hand a lamp in form of a globe. To enter the inner court, we pass under a noble portal, over which is a large cartouch with the following inscription, engraved by order of M. Knobelsdorff, *Frederico Tranquillitatem colenti*. The inside of this palace still excels the outside, as well in the beauty and distribution of the apartments, as in the taste and richness of the furniture. Which way soever the eye turns, it is struck with a profusion of gilding and carving: all these ornaments, however, are disposed with judgment and reserve,

reserve, and the designs are highly admirable. As the prince admires the tender colors only, there are several apartments furnished in gridelin, sea green, and flesh colour, the mouldings and ornaments of which are of silver: all these form a very pleasing diversity, and give this palace an air equally gay and noble. The most elegant apartment, which is not yet finished, but on which they are incessantly laboring, is a superb hall, completely lined with factitious marble, and ornamented with mirrors and bronzes. The celebrated Pesne is now engaged in painting the ceiling; it represents the rising of the Sun; on one side, Night covered with her veils, surrounded by her gloomy birds, and followed by the hours, retires, and makes room for Aurora, who is represented under the figure of Venus, is attended by the morning star, and occupies the center of the piece: we next see the white horses that draw the chariot of Apollo, and the rays of that god just appear. This subject is allegoric, and

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seems to allude to an epoch that perhaps is not far distant. I shall say nothing of the execution of this piece; the pencil of M. Pesne is too much admired by the connoisseurs of France and Italy itself, to want my commendations.

The gardens of Rheinsberg, Madam, which extend the length of the whole lake, are not yet arrived to maturity, for it is but a few years since their commencement. The plan is great and beautiful: time must do the rest. The principal ally is terminated by an obelisk coverd with Ægyptian hieroglyphics. There are delightful groves, and verdant saloons and bowers, very happily disposed. The prince is building a superb orangery, in a taste perfectly new, after the design of M. Knobelstorff. The ground is also laying out, for planting the next year, a labyrinth which is to lead to the temple of Bacchus, placed in the center. Twelve satyrs of gigantic stature, serve for columns to this temple, and sustain the dome, which is in  
form



form of an inverted punchbowl. All the avenues are planted with ivy, vines, yews, and cypres. Two handsome barges, built by the princes order, float upon the lake, ready to carry those who love excursions upon the water, or that are desirous of going to the forest, which is called the Boubero.

We arrived at Rheinsberg, the third of October, at ten in the morning, and went to the post-hous; but the prince roial did not suffer us to remain long there. He sent for our baggage, and assignd us two handsom appartments in the castle. As soon as we had changd our drefs, we were conducted into the billiard hall, which is completely lined with yellow marble; the two chimney-pieces are of bronz, as well as the rest of the ornaments. This hall is on the ground floor, and has a prospect of the garden from one side, and of the court from the other. We there found most of the gentlemen and officers who form the princes court, and were received by them with

great politenes. Before I go any further, it will be necessary, Madam, to bring you acquainted with the gentlemen and ladys that compose the court of the prince and the princess roial. I shall not here imitate the epic poets, who find it necessary to invoke the muses, to enable them to enumerate their heros; I shall tell you in plain terms, that M. von Wolden is marshal of this court; and that he executes all the functions of that office, with the utmost zeal, dignity, and politenes. He is already, arrived at a certain age, and has nothing striking or attractive in his figur; but he possesses a great share of good sens, and has a heart filld with integrity. His young wife, who is of the illustrious family of the Borcks, unites with the graces of a fine figur, those of a discerning mind; and her presence contributes greatly to the pleasures of the court of Rheinsberg. M. von Sonning, is major of the engineers, and has formerly taught the mathematics and fortification to the prince, who pays him the

6

tribute

tribute of acknowledgment, and a maintenance at the court. He is an amiable and gay veteran, notwithstanding the misfortune of having lost a leg in the last war in Flanders. The dexterity of the sculptur has, however, supplyd the injury of Mars; and the wooden leg, covered with a white spatterdash, is so artfully made, that it is not perceptible, even in walking, that the majors leg is not genuine. M. le Cavalier de Chasot, is a young gentleman of Normandy, who has formerly served in the French army, and with whom the prince became acquainted in 1734, and in the last campaign on the Rhine. You know, Madam, that the king, who had then sent ten thousand of his troops to the assistance of the emperor and empire, would himself see them act against the army of mareschal Berwick, and be witness of the last exploits of the renowned prince Eugene of Savoy, who still commanded the army of the empire. He was accompanied by the prince royal, his son; but



seeing that this septuagenary hero, was subdued more by age than by the French, and that with a most formidable army he dared not to attack that of the enemy, who took Philipsbourg within his sight; the Prussian monarch quitted the imperial army, and returnd, but litle satisfyd, to his own dominions. The prince roial soon followed, and brought with him this young Chevalier de Chasot, whom he had engaged in his service. He has a lively temper, a gay humor, agreeable talents, and if I am not mistaken, great dispositions to become one day an able general; if he be employd, as I suppose he will, in the military. Baron von Knoblestorff, has something in his physionomy and manner, that is rather austere; but he is a man of essential merit. There is nothing in his appearance that is either gallant or striking; but he is not the less worthy on that account. I compare him to a fine oak, and it is not necessary, you know, that every tree should be cut into the form of the arcades of

Marly.

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Marly. M. Knobelstorff is good sens itself; his conversation is instructive, and his talents for architectur, design, and painting, are highly excellent. That he might finish his taste for the fine arts, the prince roial withdrew him from the military, when he had arrived to the degree of a captain, and sent him to make the tour of Italy. He returnd with the most perfect knowledge of these matters; and the prince affords him, every day, occasion to put it in practice. We have already seen, on every side, monuments of his fine taste; he has painted the most delightful landscapes, and the portraits of some of his particular friends have an astonishing likenes. His character is truth, and his probity is above all temptation. M. von Jordan is a well-made litle man: his looks are pleasing, and his eye extremely piercing: his complexion is of a lively brown; his large eyebrows are as black as his beard: he has a great deal of wit and still more learning. His father dedicated him to the church;

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and he has already had, in quality of pastor, the cure of the souls of the faithful of the church of 'Potflow and Prentzlow, in the Uckermarch; but whether he found it not convenient to exercise his tender lungs in the edification of his flock, or whether he found, on examining his heart, that a frail vessel like himself, was not worthy to contain the precious deposit committed to his charge; he has resign'd his cure, and laid aside his gown. As in the cours of his studys, he has cultivated every part of the belles lettres, and is more a man of letters than a theologian; on quitting the altar, he has thrown himself into the arms of the muses, and has traveld under their auspices, in Holland, England, and France. On his return, he found means to attract the notice of the prince roial, who has taken him into his court; has made him take the sword, and has since honord him with a particular regard, and of which he is worthy, both from his merit, and from the boundles attachment which he has to his illustrious



illustrious benefactor. He is known in the republic of letters by three works, which are, *A Miscellany of Literature and Philosophy; the Life of M. la Crose; and an Account of his Literary Journey.* We should, however, judge of Mr. Jordan rather by his conversation, than his writings; for he has infinitely more wit at the end of his tongue, than the end of his pen. Gunpowder is not more quick in its execution than he; so that we may say, that genius and learning seem to be for ever on his lips. But what renders him still more esteemable is, the excellency of his heart; the fidelity and pleasures of his friendship; and the gravity and decency of his manners; and therefore it is that he is beloved by all the other courtiers; and is not that saying a great deal? Baron von K—— is a gentleman of Courland, engaged in the military service of the king of Prussia, and particularly attached to the person of the prince roial. It was some time before I could meet with him, and I had heard so much

much of him, and was so much prejudiced in his favor, that I burnd with impatience to see him. He enterd the hall like a whirlwind, or like Boreas in the ballet of the Rose. He was just come from hunting, and it appeard odd enough to see him in a night-gown, and with a gun upon his shoulder. He accosted me at once with an air of perfect ease, and his first words appeard to me as if I had been for a long time honord with his particular friendship. He took me by the arm and led me into his chamber; and while he dressd, he repeated scraps of the Henriade, and strings of German verses, and talkd of hounds and horses; cut some cross capers; and practised some steps in the rigadoon a la Balon; then talkd on politics, mathematics, painting, architecture, literary and military matters. I remaind immoveable; listend with a profound silence, and admired every thing, even the happy transitions by which he pasd so rapidly from one subject to another. I seemd, however, to perceive that  
 this

this extreme vivacity could not be altogether natural, and that it did not entirely flow from an abundant resource of genius : and though time has not quite banishd this suspicion, I find nevertheless on a further acquaintance, that baron K—— is a very amiable gentleman, that he has a mind adorned with much pleasing knowledge, that he both talks and writes well, and in vers as well as prose, that he has a humor naturally gay, and a noble heart. His figur is not very engaging : he is short and thick ; has small eyes, a large nose, a wide mouth, and a fallow complexion. He has however, an easy air, a graceful presence, and all that he says or does, is in the manner of a man of birth. By attaching himself to the prince roial, he has contracted his taste. He loves music, architecture, painting, poetry, &c. but the disciple is still inferior to his master. Beside these courtiers, the prince has also several officers of his regiment, who are lodged in his palace, and eat at his table : these are gentlemen of the greatest merit, and who unite to their military talents

the



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the love of letters, and the fine arts; that politeness which is essential to a court, and those amiable qualities which are necessary to make society agreeable.

Madam von Katich fills the place of first lady of the bedchamber, to the princess royal. I can conceive of nothing more respectable than this lady: gravity and sweetness, decency and gayety, dignity and politeness, are united in her countenance and her behaviour; and she is the patroness of all that is good and amiable.

Mademoiselle von S——, first lady of honor to her highness the princess, cannot be cited as a beauty; however, there is nothing in her countenance that is the least disagreeable. The roses and lilies are not diffused over her complexion, as they are over yours; but she has a fine shape, a delicate hand, and a delightfully pretty foot. You are not ignorant that the ladies know right well how to display their excellencies to the utmost advantage; and if they have nothing handsome about them but the tip  
of



of the ear, they will not fail to make that the object of public attention. You may easily imagin, therefore, if the feet of Mademoiselle von S——, can constantly remain confined, as in a close prison, under a trailing petticoat. No, Madam, my adventurous sight has more than once explored their excellence, and I have thought them worthy to be celebrated. They appertain, moreover, to a person of very amiable character, and who, though not in the spring of life, has nevertheless a very pleasant humor and a discreet wit.

Mademoiselle von W——— her companion, is tall, and has a figur perfectly fine; she is rather pretty than regularly handfom; her countenance pleases, tho it does not strike; her complexion is beautiful, and her eyes charming; she is fair without being languid. Her character is tender, and her politenes natural.—I am persuaded she will, one day, make an excellent wife and mother, being endowed with many qualitys that are in those stations most estimable.

Beside:

Beside those who belong to this court, the prince draws also to Rheinsberg many of the most amiable ladys of Berlin, who by the charms of their persons and their minds, contribute to render this court equally brilliant and agreeable.

The first gentleman of the chambre to the prince, is M. Frederstorff; he is a tall handsom man; has understanding and ingenuity; is polite, attentive, active, and supple; frugal of his fortune, and yet liberal: I am perswaded that he will one day make a great figur in life.

The princes chaplain is M. von Champs. He is an able preacher, and an amiable man in conversation: it is to be presumed that he will one day becom distinguishd in the republic of letters.

They who love the polite arts, and know how to distinguish those masters who excel therein, will find also here M. Pesne, a painter of the first rank, and a very polite gentleman: M. Buiffon, a very excellent painter of flowers: M. Graun, master of the  
chapel

chapel to the prince; and his brother, director of the concert; and also M. Benda, one of the first violins in Europe. All these men of uncommon genius, join to their superior talents, the graces that result from an amiable character; and I find infinit pleasure in their company, in those intervals, when they are not engaged with their royal highnesses, or in the duties of the court.

Such, Madam, is the picture of this delightful court, and such the characters of those who have the happiness to compose it.

All who live in this palace, enjoy a perfect liberty, for their particular employments, or private pleasures. We see the prince and princess only at table, at play, at the ball, the concert, or other common pleasures of which we participate. Time, so precious to a thinking being, and so tedious to one who does not think, is not here passed by lying long in bed, in making a long breakfast, or in pacifying or dispatching of business, or in grave conferences  
with

with a taylor, or such other important visitor, or at a tedious toilet, or by dancing attendance in an antichamber, and passing the remainder of the day in frivolous discours. Here each one reads, reflects, draws, paints, or plays on some instrument; or writes and amuses, or employs himself in his apartment; and is drest with elegance, tho not ostentation, by the hour of dinner.

All the employments, and all the pleasures of the prince, are those of a man of understanding. He is, at this time, actually engaged in refuting the dangerous political reverys of Machiavel. His conversation at table is charming; he talks much and excellently well: his mind seems to be equal to all sorts of subjects; and his imagination produces, on each of them, a number of new and just ideas: his genius resembles the fire of the vestals that was never extinct. A decent and polite contradiction is not disagreeable to him. He possesses the rare talent of displaying the wit of others, and of giving them opportunitys



nitys to shine on those subjects in which they excel. He jests frequently, and sometimes rallies, but never with asperity, and an ingenious reply does not displeas him. The antithesis and the simile, appear to be his favourit figures. In a word, Madam, and do not imagin that I am dazzed by that splendor which attends a prince roial, but were he a private person, I do protest to you, that I would freely go some leagues barefooted, at least, once in a week, to enjoy the delicious pleasur of supping in his company.

Nothing can be more elegant than this princes library; it is in one of those towers I have mentioned, and has a view of the lake and gardens. A collection, not very numerous, but well chosén, of the best books in the French language, are ranged in glafs cases, which are ornamented with carvings and gildings in excellent taste. The portrait of M. de Voltaire occupys an honorable place in this library. He is the favourit author of the prince, who has, in general,

general, a high esteem for the good French writers, both in vers and prose.

When dinner is over, all the gentlemen repair to the apartment of one of the ladys, who here each give coffee in their turn, begining with the first lady of the bedchamber, and without exception, even of such ladys as are strangers. All the court assembles in her apartment, whose day it is. There we talk or trifle, make partys for play, or for the walk, and this hour is not the least agreeable in the day. The prince and princess take their coffee in their own apartment.

The evenings are devoted to music. The prince has a concert in his saloon, where no one enters that is not invited, and such invitation is regarded as an extraordinary favor. The prince has commonly performed a sonata, and a concert for the flute, on which he plays in the greatest perfection. He fills the flute admirably well, has great agility of the fingers, and a vast fund of music. He composes, himself,  
sonatas;

sonotas ; I have had the honor to stand behind him, more than once, while he was playing, and was charmd with his taste, especially in the Adagio. He has a continual creation of new ideas.

The prince dances in a noble and graceful manner. In a word, he loves all rational pleasures, except the chase, the exercise of which he thinks as troublesome, and scarce more useful than that of chimney-sweeping.

I think I see you, Madam, at this moment, you are sitting in your grand confessional by the fire side ; you read my account, and you say to yourself ; F. Malbranche saw all things in God, and my poor Bielfeld sees all things in his prince, and rapt in his enthusiasm, wont say a word to me about the princess, whom I so earnestly desire to know, because all the world speaks of her with such high admiration. A moments patience, Madam ; you shall be satisfied, and you shall see that I do justice to all the world.

Her



Her roial highnes is tall of stature, and her figur is, in one word, perfect. Never have I seen a more regular shape in all its proportions: her neck, her hands and feet, might serve as models to the painter. Her hair, which I have particularly admired, is of a most beautiful flaxen; but somewhat inclining to white, and shines, when not powderd, like rows of pearls: her complexion is remarkably fine; and in her large blue eyes, vivacity and sweetnes are so happily blended, as to make them perfectly animated. The princess has an open countenance; her eyebrows are neat and regular; her nose is small and angular, but very elegantly defined; and her coral lips and well-turnd neck, are equally admirable. Goodnes is strongly markd in her countenance; and we may say, from her whole figur, that the Graces have exerted themselves in forming a great princess: even those litle negligences which are sometimes seen in her dres, or her manner, have a happy effect. Tho her highnesses



nesses dress in general, is perfectly regular and in excellent taste. There is scarce any princess in Europe who has so many fine diamonds, and no one who deposes them to more advantage. I have seen on her robe an assemblage of brilliants, heightened by amethysts, of such transcendant beauty, that my eyes could scarce bear the blaze of their lustre. Her highness talks but little, especially at table, but all she says is sterling sense: she appears to have an uncommon genius, and which she ornaments by the continual study of the best French authors. Madam von Katsch assures me, that she has a most amiable heart, and that her whole character is supremely excellent; of which she frequently gives me the most charming instances. Every evening at six, her highness has a party at quadrill or trisset, and plays with a noble indifference. Never, in my opinion, did any princess dance in greater perfection; her manner is at once graceful, easy, elegant, and majestic. It is suf-

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ficient to behold this princess, to know, that she is a lady of the most exalted rank.

We had, the other day, a ball, with which I was highly delighted. The prince, who commonly wears no other dress than the uniform of his regiment, appeared in a coat of sea green mohair, ornamented with large silver brandenbourgs, with tassels at the extremities; the waistcoat was of silver mohair, richly laced. All the gentlemen of his court were dressed almost in the same manner, but with less magnificence than the prince. This kind of uniform had a most pleasing effect; tho, at the same time, nothing attracted my eyes but the dance of the princess.

Thus, Madam, our days here pass tranquilly away, and enliven'd by every enjoyment that can please a rational mind. Royal cheer, wine for the gods, the music of angels, delicious pastimes, in the gardens, in the woods, upon the waters; the cultivation of letters and the polite arts, and a refined conversation, all concur to spread  
their

their powers oer this enchanting palace. But as there is no felicity that is absolutely perfect, so the pleasures that I have enjoyd at Rheinsberg, have been dashd with bitternes by a singular accident, of which, Madam, I shall here give an account; as you will soon see me return to Hamburg, with two wounds on my forehead, a sable eye, and a cheek coverd with all the colors of the rainbow; it is proper that I apprise you of this catastrophe. We seldom fail to feel the effects of a debauch, and it was at a bacchanalian rout, that I acquired all those ornaments. About a fortnight since, the prince was in a humor of extraordinary gayety, at table. His gayety animated all the rest; and some glasses of champagne still more enlivend our mirth. The prince, perceiving our disposition, was willing to promote it; and on rising from table, told us he was determind we shoud recommence our jollity at supper, and in the same place where we had left off. Toward evening I was calld to the concert; at the end of



which the prince said to me, *Go now to the princesses apartment, and when she has finished her play, we will sit down to table, and wont quit it till the lights are out, and we are somewhat enlightend with champagne.* I regarded this threat as a pleasantry, for I knew that partys which are expressly intended for this purpose, seldom succeed, but commonly become more dull than joyous. On entering the princesses apartment, however, her highness, convinced that the affair was very serious, and prognosticated with a smile, that I should not be able to defend myself against the princes attack. In fact, we were scarce seated before he began, by drinking a number of interesting healths, which there was a necessity of pledging. This first skirmish being over, it was followed by an incessant flow of sallies and repartees, by the prince and the company; the most contracted countenances became expanded, the gayety was general, even the ladies assisted in promoting our jollity. After about two hours, we found that the  
largest



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largest reservoirs, by perpetually filling, might be overflown: necessity has no law; and the greatest respect could not prevent some of us, from going to take the fresh air in the vestibule. I was one of the number: when I went out I found myself sober enough, but the air seized me, and on entering the hall, I perceived a sort of vapour that seemed to cloud my reason. I had placed before me a large glass of water, which the princess, opposit to whom I had the honor to sit, in a vein of mischievous pleasantry, had ordered to be emptyd, and had filld it with sillery wine, which was as clear as rock water; so that, having already lost my taste, I mixd my wine with wine; and thinking to refresh myself, I became joyous, but it was a kind of joy that leand toward intoxication. To finish my picture, the prince ordered me to come and sit by him: he said many very gracious things to me, and let me see into futurity, as far as my feeble sight was then capable of discovering; and at the same time made me

drink, bumper after bumper, of his lunel wine. The rest of the company, however, were not less sensible than I, of the effects of the nectar, which there flowd in such mighty streams. One of the ladys, who was a stranger, and in a multiplying state, found herself as much incommoded as we were, and retired suddenly for a short time to her chamber. We thought this action admirably heroic. Wine produces complacency. The lady on her return, was loaded with compliments and caresses: never was woman so applauded for such an expedition. At last, whether by accident or design, the princess broke a glass. This was a signal for our impetuous jollity, and an example that appeard highly worthy of imitation. In an instant all the glasses flew to the several corners of the room; and all the cristals, porcelain, piers, branches, bowls, vases, &c. were broke into a thousand pieces. In the midst of this universal destruction, the prince stood, like the man in Horace, who contemplates the crush of worlds,

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worlds, with a look of perfect tranquility. To this tumult succeeded a fresh burst of mirth; during which the prince slid away, and aided by his pages, retired to his apartment; and princess immediately followed.

For me, who unfortunately found not one valet who was humane enough to guide my wandering steps, and support my tottering fabric, I carelessly approached the grand stair-case, and without the least hesitation, rold from the top to the bottom; were I lay senseless on the floor, and were, perhaps, I should have perished, if an old female domestic had not chanced to pass that way, who in the dark, taking me for a great dog belonging to the castle; gave me an appellation somewhat dishonourable, and at the same time a kick in the guts; but perceiving that I was a man, and what was more, a courtier, she took pity on me, and call'd for help; my servants then came running to my assistance: they put me in bed, sent for a chirurgeon,



bled me, dress'd my wounds, and I in some degree recoverd my senses. The next day they talkd of a trepan, but I soon got rid of that dread; and after lying about a fortnight in bed, where the prince had the goodnes to come every day to see me, and contribute every thing possible to my cure, I got abroad again. The day after this adventure the court was at its last gasp. Neither the prince nor any of the courtiers could stir from their beds; so that the princel's dined alone. I have suffered severely by my bruises, and have had sufficient to make many moral reflexions. But I now adapt in part, the Italian proverb, *passato il pericolo, gabato il santo*; and I sometimes laugh at my accident as heartily as other people. This day will be for a long time rememberd at Rheinsberg, for bacchanalian exploits are there very rare. The prince is very far from being a toper: he sacrifices only to Apollo and the Muses; one day however, he may perhaps raise an altar to Mars.

Tho

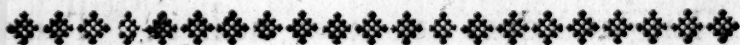
Tho I have my forehead still coverd with a green bandage, I begin to make excursions ; yesterday, for my amusement, they carryd me to the glass manufactory at Zechlin, which is a short league from hence. We went to it by a road that is cut thro the woods. The situation is charming, and they there make glasses, both for the table and furniture, in the highest perfection ; I saw among others, some that were very curiously wrought and gilt. It is incredible to what degree of excellence they have carryd this manufacture. That of England does not come near it. They are now making a large glass with its cover, for the elector of Cologne, which will come to at least a hundred guineas.

Notwithstanding the pleasures I here enjoy, and the favors with which I am loaded, I must think of my return : I have already mentioned it to the prince, who has granted me his leave, on condition, he said, that I would familiarize myself with the roads between Hamburg and Rheinsberg ; and

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added, that he now regarded me as a man that belongd to himself.

I am therefore preparing to depart very shortly. You will receive no more of my letters: this which I now send appears to me a very long one; tho I have only given you these matters in gross, reserving for our conversation the detail of what you shall wish to know. May I have the happiness to find you in perfect health at Hamburg! For there is no person in the world, Madam, who is so perfectly yours, as, &c.



L E T T E R   I X.

To the Chevalier von N\*\*\* in London.

*Hamburg, April 20, 1740.*

S I R,

**T**HE right which your friendship gives you, will not permit me to quit Hamburg, without informing you of it; and

and desiring you for the futur to direct your letters to Rheinsberg or Berlin. God knows when I shall again behold my native country! I leave it with precipitation, and shall not return to it for perhaps many years. Even this morning I had not the least suspicion of what has happend to me. I was sitting quite disengaged in my fathers chamber, who is confined to his bed by the gout; but my mind was not disengaged. I found myself restless and agitated, and endeavourd to be composd, but could not by any means be at ease. My father observd it, and askd me the reason. I told him that I had a secret misgiving that something uncommon would happen to me before the day was over. He laughd at me and my misgiving; you will doubtles do the same, for how strange is it to talk to an Englishman and a philosopher of misgivings. But, Sir, laugh as much as you please, it is very certain that my inquietude continued till five in the afternoon, when a messenger arrivd from Reins-

E 6

berg,



berg, that brought be a letter from M. Jordan, with an order from the prince roial of Prussia to set off instantly, to take my route to Berlin, and to come to him, whether he were in that city, or at Ruppın, Potsdam, or wherever else he might be.

This order makes me imagin that the king his father is either dead or dying. You know that he has been for a long time languishing, and that they have despaired of his recovery. There is nothing for me but instant obedience. They are now preparing my baggage, and I shall set off tomorrow by daybreak, to go I know not whither. You now see me, my dear friend, like one of the ancient champions at the entrance of a long career, that is surrounded by precipices, and thick-set with thorns and brambles. Who can tell whether I shall not faint by the way? or if I shall be ever able to attain the goal? I tremble, and my spirits flutter: but I resign myself to Providence. Tho the fortune I have in view is not of a gigantic size, yet I shall  
not

not desist from the pursuit: and you know that when we follow fortune, we should not make too many reflexions.

If you see the youngest lady St. ———, I beg you will make my most respectful compliments, and tell her my present situation. She will not, I hope, have entirely forgot her partner at the balls at York and Wakefield. I who have never yet seen any thing so amiable, shall not fail to carry with me to the grave, the remembrance of her charms.

Continue, my dear Sir, to honor me with your friendship and your correspondence; and favor me soon with an answer. In the midst of the preparations for my journey, I have only time left to assure you of my sincere attachment. Adieu!

LETTER

## LETTER X.

To my Father.

*Rheinsberg, May 5, 1740.*

SIR,

I Should be the most undutiful of sons, and the most ungrateful of men, if I did not employ the first moments, I do not say of my leisure, but the first opportunity possible, to send you what news I have. My journey has been safe, and my health constantly good: I strictly inquired of all the post-masters in my route, if they had any news from Berlin, and they all answered me with a No, that pierced my heart. I continued my journey till I came to Therberlin, where the post-master is particularly attached to the prince. I asked him in confidence, if he had any news of H. R. H. and were he thought he was. He told me that he believed the prince was at Rupin, and that I should do well to go thither.

thither. I followd his advice, and as it was but a league distant, soon arrivd at that city, but was quite surpris'd to see the prince marching out of the gate of the town at the head of his regiment of grenadiers. I alighted and approachd his hors. He seemd quite pleas'd with my arrival, and orderd me to enter the town, and to take with me M. Jordan, who waited for me at his highnesses apartments, and to go with him directly to Rheinsberg. I immediately obeyd these orders; and when I was alone with M. Jordan in the carriage, I inquired of him the reasons that had induced the prince to send for me so suddenly. He told me that the king was extraordinarily ill at Potzdam, when that letter was sent: that H. M. was indeed something better, but that he was still in a state that was in a manner desperate, and that he supposed the prince was desirous of talking with me, and of having me near him, in case any change should happen. When we came to Rheinsberg, I had the honor of  
waiting



waiting on the princess, and of dining with her highness. Toward the evening the prince came to us. We have hitherto lived in great tranquility : the prince has not yet said any thing particular to me, but treats me in the most gracious manner. He frequently receives letters from Potzdam, which make him uncommonly silent and pensive. As it is the time for reviewing the troops, we are continually passing between Rheinsberg and Ruppín, where the prince every morning exercises his regiment; he often dines with his officers, writes, has a concert in the evening, and for the most part admits no one to his supper but M. Jordan and myself.

His highnesses residence at Ruppín, is in an old wooden house; but it is charmingly furnished. There are moreover delicious gardens, which are formed in an old triple rampart that surrounds the city; and consist of alleys, walks, reposes, and beautiful vistas: and at the end of these walks, is a more regular garden, ornamented with  
6 hedges,

hedges, vases, statues, bowers; a pavilion, a grotto, a bath, the temple of Apollo, and many other embellishments. There we frequently dine, and breath a constant spirit of gayety.

But I can have no solid pleasur, my dear father, whenever I reflect on what your cruel gout makes you continually suffer: very happy shoud I be if I coud afford you any relief: ease me soon of my anxiety by a few lines, with a favorable account of your health. I present my most dutiful respects to my mother; tenderly embrace my brothers and sisters, and salute all our friends. I offer the most ardent prayers for your recovery, and shall never cease to be with the utmost respect, &c.

## LETTER XI.

To the Marchiones von \*\*\* at Paris.

*Rheinsberg, May 25, 1740.*

THE marshals of France judge of affairs of honor: why should there not be a similar areopagus established, to judge of the affairs of love? It ought to be composed of a certain number of heroins, illustrious by their rank and characters; and who are grown grey, to use the expression, in the arms of gallantry, and are become venerable by the number of their conquests. This would be a means of employing those fair superannuaries, who at present appear in a manner useless in society. There is a time to mix in the bustle of the day, and to be covered with a noble dust; and there is a time also to consult only, on matters that relate to the camp. Why should the latter period of life be lost

to

to three parts of the fair sex? Of what use might these respectable antiquitys still be to the state. Instead of consuming their days in regret for the loss of their charms; of envying those beautys who have succeeded to their power; of criticising their conduct, and obstructing their enjoyments; they might on the contrary, be employed in guiding them by their knowledge, in forming their plans of operation, in deciding their differences, in redressing their wrongs, and in doing justice to all contending partys. What quarrels woud be prevented? what lovers reconciled? and what a number of useful subjects woud be preservd to the empire of Cytherea, by such an establishment. The god of marriage has his consistorys, and why may not the god of love have his also? There are a thousand judges in the world for the cases of conscience that regard marryd people, but not one that I know of, for the cases of conscience that regard lovers. It seems to me, Madam, that you have at Paris, a much better



better opportunity of composing such a court, than in any other part of the world. Try therefore, I conjure you, to carry my plan into execution; endeavour to convoke Meidames de \*\*\*\*\*, and add to them the abbess of \*\*\*, and the prioress of \*\*\*, and the court will be complete.

I shall now propose a case for their decision: it regards myself. After my return from London and Paris, I became enamoured, at Hamburg, of a young heiress, who is handsom, witty, and I believe, prudent. She has in return, made me, a hundred times, protestations of an equal attachment, since I informd her of my intention of one day binding myself to her in the holy bands of wedlock. This was only a verbal agreement, without writing, or without taking or giving the least matter as earnest. I found a repugnance to coming to a conclusion at the age of 24, and to changing a life of gayety into the dull manufactory of posterity. But while I was [trudging under the yoke of love, fortune oertook

bertook me, and obliged me to deliver myself up to her. The prince roial of Prussia has engaged me in his service; I know not to what employ he will destin me, but I know that while I follow the court, I shall proceed very slowly, if I drag a wife after me. I cannot account beside, for that anarchy which the passions produce in our minds; they seem to destroy one another. Since I have been at Rheinberg, and have acted the part of a courtier, I have sometime pasd a whole day together without ever thinking of my fair Hambourgian. Do you call this infidelity? Am I for this a traitor and a perjurer? It it not possible for an honorable lover to be dissipated, dazzeld by the full blaze of fortune, and aided by absence, to suffer his love to dye away by inattention? And is it not possible for his mistress, on her part, to procure some consolation, and by the aid of her charms, to find some means of retaliating the neglect? And is not this at least a venal crime? Vouchsafe, Madam, to propose these matters to your  
learned

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learned judges. I would not for all the riches of Peru, have caus to reproach myself with having begun the world, either with a crime or with a wife. Deliver me, Madam, from this double burden, and be assured that you will confer on me an eternal obligation.



L E T T E R XII.

To my Father.

*Ruppin, June 3, 1740.*

*My most dear Father,*

**T**HAT which we have so long foreseen is at last arrived. The king, Frederic William, died at Potsdam, the 31 May, at 3 in the afternoon. I shoud think myself wanting in my duty, my dear father, if I did not send you an account of the principal particulars of this great event.

In

In the night, between the 26 and 27 ult. the prince receivd a courier that was dispatched by three persons who are particularly attachd to him, and were about the person of the king. They informd him that H. M. had pasd a very bad night, and that they were instantly in apprehension of his death: that it woud be expedient for H. R. H. to be present at the last breath of the king his father; that he shoud make all possible dispatch: still giving his visit, however, the appearance of the mere effect of attention and tendernes toward H. M.

This news alarmd all the court. The prince immediately prepared for his departure. He orderd M. von Brand, chamberlain to her majesty, the queen-mother, who was come there to make his court; count Wartenleben, who succeeds M. von Wolden, that died lately at Rheinsberg of an apoplexy, in the post of marshal of the court; baron Knobelsdorf and myself, to remain at Rheinsberg with the princess roial, and



and all the ladys of the court. The chevalier de Chasot set off from Ruppin, and the prince presently followd him, attended by Mess. von Willich and Jordan. He drove so hard that he well nigh killd a set of his dappeld greys. When I took my leave of his highnes he made me understand, by some unfinished expressions, that he did not expect to see me again but in quality of king. I must confes to you that since his departure my mind has been greatly agitated. God forbid that I should witness the death of the meanest of mankind, and much less that of a powerful monarch! respectable for so many great qualities. But you are not ignorant, my dear father, that all my fortune depends on the advancement of the prince his son to the throne; and beside, I had scarce any knowledge of the king, while I have the happines to be closely attachd to the person of the prince roial, who has a thousand amiable private virtues, that make the hearts of all who are about him, devoted to him. The late  
king

king was moreover of a disposition hasty and violent, liable to be offended by the most innocent actions; and the first motions of his wrath were sometimes highly dangerous. He had in general, no affection either for the polite courtier or the man of letters. Their appearance at Rheinsberg was disgustful to him. He apprehended that their conversation tended to promote that predominant passion for study, which appeared in the prince: and tho he was the father, and of a penetrative disposition, he knew not the soul of Cæsar: he could not conceive that a genius which was capable of painting victorys was capable of obtaining them. The long and grievous illness of the late king, moreover, gave him frequently such fits of ill temper as made him terrible to the muses and their votarys, and sometimes alarmed us so much, that we should have been glad to have had Pegasus at command, to carry us out of his reach.

In a situation so disagreeable and dangerous, that desire, so natural to human nature, to see the epoch arrive which is to ease us of our fears, and to be the beginning of our fortunes, was, I presume, to be pardoned. Perhaps we might carry our desires something too far. Be that however as it may, the whole castle of Rheinsberg attended the news from Potsdam with the last impatience; and when a horse, a mule, or an ox, passed the bridge on the left of the garden, every head was immediately turned that way, and every one ran to the windows. The princess royal alone seemed unconcerned, at least her exterior appearance was perfectly decent.

Five days passed in this anxious state: they appeared to us of an intolerable length: more than once it seemed as if some new Joshua had stopped the course of the sun. On Wednesday evening, which was the last day of May, the princess had a party of cards with three of her ladies in her closet. Two of the ladies of honor, M. von B——  
and



and myself, made a party at quadrill in the antichamber. About eight in the evening, the first valet de chambre to the princess arrivd, with a letter in his hand that had a large black seal; which he showd us, with a very mysterious air, as he passd our table to go to her highnes. That convincd us that the king was certainly dead. We all laid down our cards; the matadores were mixd; we regarded them with contempt; M. von B—— got up, took his hat, and said, *I will be the first to salute the princess as queen, and I will do it in an oratorical manner, and pronounce the word majesty, majestically.* We drew gradually toward the door, which was open, while the princess read the letter; but she read at the same time all that passd in our minds, and askd us, with a seeming surprize, what made us leave off play: we were very far from being able to give any good reason, and her highnes laughd heartily at our confusion. We were again rallyd at supper, and I could not avoid remarking, that if the



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sick king knew all that pass'd, it would afford him very little consolation. The supper became quite gay, the princess was in the most charming humor in the world; she rose from table about midnight, and we all retired to our apartments. As small silver money is more scarce at Rheinsberg than gold, I had brought a good quantity with me from Hamburg; and before I went to bed, empty'd my pockets, and had placed about the value of a louis d'or on the table, with which I intended to pay my gaming debts; and having put out my candle, went quietly to rest.

But I did not rest long; for about two in the morning, I was waked by a number of horses that pass'd the wooden bridge on a full gallop. I started up in my bed, and listend; but as I had no light in my room, and heard no noise in the castle, I laid down again to sleep; but a few minutes after, I heard the voice of Baron von Knobelsdorff, who at the same moment open'd my door hastily, and cry'd out, *Rise, Bielfeld! the king*

is

*is no more! Willich is come courier to the princess with the news of his death.* I expresd some doubt about the certainty of the news, as we had been so often deceivd by reports, but he cryd, *No! no! the thing is sure and certain, he is dead! right dead! Jordan has orders to dissect and embalm his body; and you know well enough that when he is once in his hands he will never come to life again.* I could not forbear laughing at this sally, and desird Knobelsdorff to procure me a candle that I might get up. He woud get one himself, but runing against the table in the dark, he threw it down, and all my small silver jingled about the chamber. When the light came, I jumpd out of bed and began to pick up my money, but he stopd me, and cryd, *What are you about? picking up pence at such a time as this, when it rains ducats!* I continued however, to pick up my money, after which I slipd on my cloathes, and we went together to find Baron Willich.

He was gone up to the antichamber of the princess, were we found him with Ma-

dam von Katsch, Mlle von Schack, and the young lady Bortefeldt, first maid of honor to H. R. H. He told us that he had lost his way in the wood, or he should have been at Rheinsberg by midnight; for his late majesty expired at three in the afternoon, and the new king dispatchd him immediately after. The deceased monarch, he said, had died with a firmness equally christian and heroic; that he had been preparing himself for some days for the important passage; that he had frequent conferences with the prince royal on the affairs of government; and with the ministers of the gospel concerning the futur state, and the dutys of a christian in the last moments of this life. He told us moreover that the prince, on his arrival at Potzdam, was much surpris'd to find his father sitting in a rolling chair, and with the appearance of considerable strength, applying himself to occupations that did not appear to be those of a dying man: and that he suspected his correspondents had been over solicitous to acquaint him with the kings approaching



proaching dissolution: but that H. M. was highly pleas'd with his sons arrival, and much affected with the instance of regard: that the sick king finding his disorder continually increasing, shew'd still greater marks of resignation, and of affection for his successor: that the last day, perceiving the near approach of death, his majesty made the old prince of Anhalt Dessau, and captain von Hacke, each of them, a present of a fine saddle hors, with superb furniture: that he soon after took a tender adieu of his queen, the prince roial, and his other children, and of those generals and ministers whom he most respected. After these sorrowful adieus, he entirely laid aside all thoughts of human grandeur, that he might fix his attention on eternity: the ministers of the gospel being call'd to assist the dying monarch, by continual prayers and exhortations. About one in the afternoon he sent for counsellor Ellert, his first physician, and ask'd him if he thought that his life and his sufferings could continue long, and if the agonys of his last moments woud be great.



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The physician answerd, *Your majesty is already arrived at that period; I feel the pulse retire; it now beats below your elbow.* The king said, *where will it retire at last?* the doctor replyd, *to the heart: and in about an hour it will cease to beat at all.* On which the king said, with perfect resignation, *Gods will be done.* A few minutes after this, the queen, the princes, and princesses, withdrew; and in a short time that great monarch drew his last breath in the arms of the prince roial his son. The new king, notwithstanding his excessive grief, immediately dispatched baron Willich to the princess roial, and M. von Boddembrough to Berlin, with the news of this important event.

To this short account M. von Willich added, that the new king was on the point of setting out for his old palace at Berlin; and that he wished her majesty the queen, to meet him there the same day.

How affecting soever such an account as this might have been on another occasion, it touchd us now but lightly; because the  
accession

accession of our prince to the throne, afforded to our imaginations, objects that were sufficient to efface every impression of sorrow that the loss of ten kings could possibly occasion. Our only embarrassment was, how to announce this great news to the young queen, who was still in a profound sleep. Madam von Katsch, whose command of temper and presence of mind, never forsake her; notwithstanding her great joy, resign'd to Mlle Bortefeldt, the performance of this office, and instructed her in the manner of doing it. She enter'd the queens chamber, and softly drew the curtains. Her majesty waked, and ask'd her the reason of it. Mlle Bortefeldt said: *I beg your majestys pardon for entering this morning sooner than usual.——Why do you call me majesty? do you dream?* said the queen, *No, Madam, she replyd, but baron Willich is arriv'd——as a courier——from Potzdam——with the news that the king——died yesterday,* Madam von Katsch who had ready a powder against sudden surprise, enter'd the mo-

ment after, gave it her majesty, and was the first to salute her as queen. About half an hour after, this charming queen appeared, in a sort of negligé, of black and white, and of exquisit taste. Never did she appear so engaging. Her majesty permitted us to enter the audience-chamber, and there received our homage. The compliments of condolence were but short, but those of felicitation were sufficiently long, and by the ardor with which they were made, lively expressed the sentiments of the hearts of those who have been hitherto attached more by zeal than interest, to the prince and princess royal.

The new queen informed us, that she intended to quit Rheinsberg instantly, and go to Berlin: that she would breakfast with us, and at ten, go into her coach; that we must all prepare for our departure; and that she should have occasion for eighty post horses at each stage. There was some difficulty in collecting, in so small a town, so great a number of horses, after the long  
and



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and hard winter of 1740, which had exhausted the country of fodder, and killed many of the cattle. However, as each one was animated with joy, and with an ardor to shew their zeal to the most gracious and most worthy of queens, the relays were soon had, and by eight in the morning, all was ready for the départur of H. M. Our breakfast was a real and splendid repast. The cooks on this occasion exceeded their usual excellence. Madam von Katsch, first lady of the bed-chamber, drank to us, in a great glas, the healths of the new king and queen, with wishes that the reign of their majestys might be equally long and prosperous. I could not drink this health without tears of joy and affection, and was unable to pronounce the words without stammering; these imperfect expressions of the sentiments of my heart, were found, however, more eloquent, than the most flowing periods. H. M. vouchsafed to assure us, that she woud continue to all of us her protection and roial munificence.



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M. von Brand led the queen to her coach; the ladys followd; and after we had saluted H. M. for the last time, at the coach door, she departed like lightning, with all her train, for Berlin. M. von Knobelstorff set off, by the king's order, for Potzdam, to form the designs for the superb funeral decorations of the church, where the body of the late king is to be placed for public view; and for the procession on the day of interment.

Thus has finishd the remarkable residence of the prince roial of Prussia at Rheinsberg. And thus, after consecrating ten years, in that charming retreat, somtimes to the muses, and somtimes in the study of the art of war, and the art of government, he has now enterd on a theatre, where he may practis that knowledge which he has acquired, and where the whole world will admire those talents, which have been hitherto known to a small number of his servants only. May I be a witnes of that glory which attends him in his new career!

The

The first moments of the accession of the king to the throne, have been entirely devoted to the state. He has not yet had time to think on me. I have therefore taken the opportunity to go to Ruppin, where I saw the regiment of the prince roial take the oath of fidelity to their old commander and their new king. This was a new and very pleasing sight to me. I here found M. von Munschow, and major Senning. We are lodged and live in H. M. palace, and here wait his orders. All the officers of the regiment, who are our friends, shew us continual favors, and the joy here is universal.

We learn every hour, some new particulars of the death of the late king. They assure us that he formd some years since, the design of abdicating his crown, and retiring to the Hague. In the famous treaty of partition, which he made with the prince of Orange, for the succession of William III. of England, he expressly reservd the palace at the Hague, calld the Old Court, and the pleasur castle of Honflardick. It was  
there

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there he proposed to finish his days in retirement, and see his son hold the reins of government. This idea revived in his mind toward the close of his life. The day before his death, he sent for M. von Podewils, minister for foreign affairs, to Berlin, and in effect, abdicated the crown, in the presence of the prince of Anhalt and several others. He moreover ordered that minister to notify this abdication the same evening, to all the courts of Europe, and make the troops take the oath of fidelity. Providence however, rendered this step unnecessary, by taking the sick monarch a few hours after, from this world, and putting the sceptre into the hands of his son; by the more natural way, the right of succession. I thought, my dear father, that a particular relation of so interesting an event, could not displeas you. May you find as much pleasur in reading as I have had in writing it. I have been for these three days past, quite at leisir, and could not have better employd my time, than in performing part of my duty toward you.

P. S.



## LETTER XIII. 135

P. S. An expres is this moment arrivd from Berlin, which brings an order for M. von Munschow and me, to repair immediately to Charlottenbourg, a pleasur palace about a league distant from Berlin, where the king proposes to reside till the interment of his father. We are just going into the chaise, and I beg, my dear father, that you addres your answer to me at Berlin.



## LETTER XIII.

To M. von St. \* \* \* at Hamburg.

*Charlottenburg, June 20, 1740:*

*My dear Friend,*

THEY write me from Hamburg, that you are litteraly bound to my eldest sister, and that you are determind to marry her, maugre every opposition we can possibly



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possibly make; that you are become the favourite of my father, and that you shew him infinite attention; that you watch over him, and have never quitted him during his disorder, and that he cannot live without your company. They say beside that you have abandoned the muses for love and friendship; and notwithstanding that brilliant success you have had on the stage and in the closet, by your masterly translations of the Earl of Essex, Phædra and Hippolytus, and Brutus and Alzira, you no longer sacrifice to Apollo, but have sent your Pegasus to grass. What strange revolutions can a pair of fine eyes make in the minds, and in the hearts of us poor mortals! I give you many thanks for your care of my father, and cannot but be highly flattered with having for my brother in law, a man of merit, and one whom I had already esteemed as my friend. But still try however, to make your passion coincide with your reason, and do not let Hymen divorce you from the learned ladies.

My

## L E T T E R XIII. 137

My father has shewn you, without doubt, the long epistle I wrote him a few days since, which contains some anecdotes relative to the kings accession to the throne. And as I know that he has an excessive paternal solicitude for every thing that concerns me; that he is very fond of news; and that the nights of a gouty man are of an insufferable length; I here send you a detail of all that has happend to me, and of all that has pasd within my sight, since the 4th of June, which makes the continuation of my former account, and the reading of which may amuse my father, and furnish you with some topics of conversation.

I arrivd at Charlottenburg in the night, between the 4 and 5. The king and all who lodge in the castle, were buried in a profound sleep; I found all the inns, and even the alehouses, so filld with strangers of both sexes, and of every age and condition, that I had great difficulty in finding a bad chamber, or rather a mere shelter against  
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the unwholsom air, without a bed, or even necessary furniture. The late king, who had a kind of aversion for all that came from Frederic I. and could not bear the air of magnificence which that prince impressed on all his establishments, had testified, during the 27 years of his reign, a strong antipathy to Charlottenburg. The situation notwithstanding, on the borders of the Spree, is charming, the castle is large and stately, the gardens are very extensive, and disposed in a taste of elegance and magnificence; and the town, tho not enclosed, is handsomly built. They even say that the late king had a design to reduce this town to a mere village, and to destroy the noble park which reaches from here to the gates of Berlin. A country that is in disgrace with its sovereign resembles the Hyperborean regions; where the sun cannot dart his rays, where nature languishes, becomes frozen and inanimate. Such was the state of Charlottenburg. The look of misery was stamped on all its inhabitants. The  
houses



houses that should have afforded entertainment, were totally unprovided, when the new king came so suddenly there to establish his residence. The great and little people who came from every quarter to see a monarch that had been their joy and their hope, while he was prince royal; presently consumed all the provisions of the place, so that there was not a morsel of black bread, nor a drop of bad beer, to be had for money. M. von M—— and myself, were therefore obliged to refresh ourselves from the fatigue of our journey, by a large glass of water, and log of wood, on which we dozed away the remainder of the night. I now found for the first time, that a courtier must clime *per dura ad astra*: and even by that road it is but rare that he gets to his journeys end. In the morning I changed my dres, and ran to the castle, and made my arrival known to the king, as soon as I heard he was up. I saw H. M. first in the chamber of M. von Kaiserling, where he took the waters. He appeared quite

quite dejected: I made him a short compliment on his accession to the throne, which he vouchsafed to receive graciously: but said to me, with tears in his eyes, *You dont know what I have lost in losing my father.* I answerd, *It is true, Sire; but I know very well, what you have got, in getting a kingdom; your loss is great, but your motives for consolation are very powerful.* The king smiled, and the conversation changed; but I observd in the midst of all the splendor of royalty, and the numberles occupations that attend the begining of a reign, that the sensible mind of the king is not able to divest itself of grief; that natur exercises her authority; and that the filial sorrow is strictly genuine.

But if the king be grieved, his courtiers, his officers and subjects, are in a manner distracted with joy. I have already told you that there is here every day so great a concours of people, that there is no passing the palace yard without danger of being  
presd

presd to death. Whenever the king appears there in an incessant acclamation. Baron K—— is at the head of all these joyous subjects. His apartments are never empty: all his doors are markd with the title of *Cesarion*, which the king has given him, and of which he seems to me to make a dangerous use. He receives 50 letters of felicitation and busines in a day, and employs several secretaries in writing answers. Imbrued with the waters of Hypocrene, they flow from the end of his pen in a torrent of vers, which however does not always appear to be genuine. He receives every day some litle present from the king, which has the same effect on his mind, as great benefactions have on those of others. He runs about the garden and every part of the palace, with a litle amber flagelet at his buttonhole; he plays upon his base-viol, he sings, he laughs, he jokes and rallies. I was fearful from the beginning, that so violent an agitation would affect his  
head,



head, and so it has happend. He was seized yesterday with a violent fever, which confines him to his bed. His secretaries are dismissed; M. Jordan has drawn up a form, which serves as a general answer to all his letters; and we well hope that tranquillity will soon be restored to the mind, and to the dwelling of the amiable Césaire.

I am very well convinced of the sincerity of those who rejoice in this great event; that it proceeds from a real attachment to their new master: but I have not a very great opinion of the understanding of those, who imagin that the king will exhaust his treasures to fill their pockets: that it will shortly rain gold, and that they shall have nothing more to do, but stoop and pick it up. They who expect that the king will suddenly make their fortunes, and they who fear that he will do them much harm, are perhaps equally mistaken; so that the day of the advancement of this wise monarch

narch to the throne, taken in every sense, may be properly call'd, *the day of dupes*.

I have here not only becom acquainted with the ministers of state, and the generals of the army, but have also been presented to prince William, the kings brother, and now the presumptive heir to the crown; to the markgrave von Schwedt, to the markgraves Henry and Charles, to the duke of Holstein Beck, and to divers other persons of illustrious rank. Prince William is one of the finest figures that I have ever seen; he is tall, and in every respect perfectly well proportioned. His hair is brown; he has large blue sprightly eyes, and all his features are extremely pleasing. Tho he does not expres himself remarkably well, yet one may discover in all he says, traces of genius: but his education appears to have been much neglected; and he has a timid and embarras'd air, which is very very far from making a striking impression on the first interview.

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The king every day bestows some fresh mark of his munificence on his subjects in general, and his servants in particular. The long and hard winter having exhausted all the private grainarys, H. M. on the second day of his reign, opened all his storehouses; the corn was distributed to the poor at a very moderate price, and want and misery were immediately banished from among his people. There passes no day in which he does not bestow some magnificent favor, or make some considerable promotion, either civil or military. I forbear to mention particulars, because you will see them in the gazetts. Our common friend count Troughses, has obtained the fine regiment of count Donhoff, which is in garrison at Berlin.

The king has publicly declared himself a freemason, and a few days since H. M. held a very illustrious lodge. I made the necessary preparations, and acted as principal overseer; the king himself being in the chair. The curiosity of all the court  
was



was very strongly excited. We received their highnesses prince William, the markgrave Charles, and the duke of Holstein, who were all highly charmd with being admitted of our order.

They are very busy in making the necessary dispositions for the interment of the late king, which will be performed in about a fortnight, at Potzdam, with great pomp and solemnity. A Lutheran minister of Berlin, named Baumgarten, a man of learning, and a great poet, is appointed to compose an elegy, or funeral cantata, in Latin; which M. Graun, master of the chapel, is to set to music, and as H. M. is not yet provided with proper voices, he has prayd the king of Poland to lend him three of his best Italian singers. The court of Dresden has on this occasion, found great pleasur in obliging that of Prussia, and has sent the Ss. Annibali, Amarevoli, and Monticelli, to whom was given, before they set out, very decent

## 146 L E T T E R XIII.

mourning dresses, and money, not only for their journey, but to defray all their expences during their stay at Berlin. The king appears highly sensible of this attention, and invites these virtuosos to his evening concert, where they sing and hear with admiration, H. M. performs on the flute.

It is impossible to give you a just idea of the concours there is at Charlottenberg and Berlin, where the king sometimes goes; of foreign ministers who come to compliment H. M. of people of distinction, and adventurers who arrive from every quarter. These last seem to think that the king has mounted the throne merely to make their fortunes, and that his court will be the theatre on which they shall hereafter shine, if not as principal actors, at least as figur dancers.

H. M. will send three solemn embassys, to the emperor, the kings of France and Great Britain. Colonel von Monchow is named for that of Vienna, colonel von Cammas

## L E T T E R   XIII.   147

Cammas for Versailles, and count Troughses, for Hannover, where H. Britannic M. arrived a few days since. Each of these ministers will have two or three gentlemen of the embassy, a secretary of legation, two pages, a numerous livery, and a stately equipage. The king told me the other day, with great goodnes, that he intended me for foreign affairs, and that it was his design to rais me in that rank, but that his busines required experience and a regular routine; for which reason he had fixed on me to accompany count Troughses to Hannover; that the journey woud not take up much time, and that he woud advance me on my return. I confes this beginning is rather low, but as the station of a mere courtier has somthing in it to me altogether frivolous, I accepted this offer with the most respectful submission, and the next day H. M. sent me to Berlin, to take the oath of fidelity, in the presence of his Ex. M. von Thulemeyer, minister of state for foreign

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affairs.



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affairs. H. M. has given me at the same time, a suit of deep mourning, another for my valet de chambre, two liverys for my lacqueys, and a mourning coach. Count Troughses will receive his instructions forthwith, and we shall set off together, immediately after the interment.

In the midst of the preparatives for my journey, and the informations which his Ex. M. von Thulemeyer has the goodnes to give me every time I go to Berlin, I participate of the tranquil pleasures of Charlottenburg, I take luxurious walks in its fine gardens, and assist almost every night at the concert. I also read, by way of amusement, those pieces of poetry with which the king has been pesterd ever since the first day of his reign. They arrive by cart loads; it may be truly said that the poets surround his throne like a swarm of bees; but, my dear friend, the greatest part are in fact no better than miserable drones, that are incapable of making the least impression  
by

L E T T E R XIII. 149

by their sting: in a fit of ill humor they put me the other day, I wrote these lines;

God save the king! from the poets dull  
vers,

And the tedious declaimers dull prose;  
All enemys else soon will dispers,  
If once he gets rid but of those.

Among all the poetry made on this occasion, that I have seen, there is only one piece that pleases me, which is that which M. Voltaire sent to H. M. It consists of regular stanzas, and begins with these lines;

En fin voici le jour le plus beau de ma  
vie,

Que le monde attendoit & que vous seul  
craignies,

Le jour où la terre est par vous embellie,

Le jour ou vous regnés, &c.

*Behold, at length, the fairest day of my life,  
which the world wishd for, and which you*

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*alone feard; the day on which you embellish the earth; the day on which you reign, &c.*

I can remember only this stanza, but I imagin the author will soon publish it, and adorn his works with it.

I shall take care to send you a description of the funeral of the late king, as soon as that ceremony is over. This seems quite enough for the present.

LETTER



## LETTER XIV.

To the same.

*Charlottenburg, June 30, 1740.*

*My most dear Friend,*

**I** Come from beholding the end of all human grandeur : a monarch on whom but a short time past, the fate of millions depended, laid in the silent grave. How mortifying is such a sight to human vanity ! and how proper to make us reflect on the insignificance of life, and all its wretched pomp !

On Wednesday last, all the preparations for the funeral parade being ready, the king departed, after dinner, with all his attendants, for Potzdam. The marshal of the court had forgot to assign me a place in the train ; and as I was curious to see so remarkable a ceremony, I found myself

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greatly

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greatly embarrassed, and the more as there was neither coach nor hors to be had for money. I was standing in the court before the palace, and not knowing what to do, when the king passd by me to go to his his coach. He was surpris'd to see me, and askd why I was not gone. I told him the reason in two words, and express'd at the same time my concern in very strong terms. He smiled; and perceiving count Trufches and colonel Walrave, who were going to their carriage, he ordered them to take me in. Their chaise unluckily was for two persons only, so that I forced to sit all the way on the knees of these gentlemen; however as we had but nine miles to go, we got soon, and pleasantly there. But when I arrived at Potzdam, I found that I had suffered a misfortune far greater than what I had just overcome, and one that was irreparable. We set off so hastily that my servant had not time properly to secure my portmanteau, so that it got loose, and was lost by the way. Now this portmanteau containd

not

not only my black coat, but all the accoutrements for my mourning. My lot here was far more deplorable than that of the marquis de Grammont, who lost his fine embroidered suit on the floating sands of Calais; for any fine coat may do to go to a ball, whereas without a black coat it is impossible to be present at the funeral procession of a king. I dispatchd messengers every way in quest of my poor trunk, without which I was like a monk without his frock; but all my inquiries were bootles, and I was forced to give up all thoughts of walking in the procession, and to content myself with seeing it pass by, in a gallery that was erected near the church, for the principal spectators. As I could get no other mourning than a blue surtout with black buttons, I did not dare suffer myself to be seen, and consequently could not possibly observe all that passd: and as I dont love to relate what I have not myself seen, I can give you but an imperfect description of this funeral: the gazetts however, will



supply what is deficient; and perhaps baron Pollnitz, who officiated as master of the ceremonies, and regulated all the dispositions, with the kings approbation, will himself publish a complete account.

When I mention this courtier, so celebrated for his travels, his memoirs and other works, I cannot dispense with myself, from doing him the justice to say, that he is a man of great discernment, who having passed his youth in the court of Frederic I. and since frequented most of the courts of Europe, has profited by their various accomplishments, manners, and politeness. As there was not sufficient room in the castle of Potzdam, for all the kings train, he offered count Troughses and me, an apartment in his house, of which we gratefully accepted. When the count had changed his dress, and I my linen, for I had nothing but my blue great coat, we went together to the castle, to see the state bed of the late king. We found all the antichambers hung with black, and ornamented with  
large

large branches of massy silver, and wax candles. The hall itself was lined with purple velvet, and adorn'd with sconces of silver gilt. At the upper end of the hall was rais'd an estrade of three steps, cover'd with purple velvet, on which was placed the kings coffin, cover'd with the same velvet, and adorn'd with gold lace, and ornaments of bronz richly gilt. The sword, the gloves, the gorget, the spurs, and other military ensigns, which his majesty was accusom'd to wear, were laid upon the coffin; and it was surronded by twelve high candlesticks of silver gilt, with large wax tapers; between these were placed stools, cover'd likewise with purple velvet, laced and fring'd with gold; on which were placed the crown, the sceptre, the globe, the sword, and all the other regalia. Each of these were of massy gold, richly ornamented with large brilliants and other jewels: before each stool there stood either a lieutenant-general or minister of state; and at the head of the coffin stood

mareſchal Schwerin, holding the great banner of the kingdom. Over the eſtrade, there hung a large canopy of purple velvet, ornamented with broad lace and fringe of gold, and lined with a ſilver ſtuff. The arms of Prussia were there embroiderd in relief. In a word, every part of the hall was adorn'd with all the taſte and magnificence that it was poſſible to introduce on ſuch an occaſion.

After having attentively conſiderd this mournful pomp, I returnd to baron Pollnitz, where I found a company of thirty gentlemen and ladys of Berlin, and of the firſt quality, who were come to Potzdam to ſee the funeral ceremony, and whom our hoſt had invited to ſupper. We preſently ſat down to table, and the ſupper was ſplendid and decently gay. I was placed next Madam von A\*\*\*, the daughter of lieutenant-general count S\*\*\*. I ſcarce ever ſaw a more amiable lady. She is tall and finely made. There reigns in all her features, in her figur and her mien, a certain



tain natural elegance of which it is impossible for any one that has not seen her, to form an idea; the charms of which are more attractive than the most regular beauty; and an air of blooming youth, renders her completely captivating: it is for these reasons that we find her portrait at court, and in all the principal houses of the city. She has a world of wit and many accomplishments. The tone of her conversation, the suavity of her temper, her graceful trifling, and polite manners, all declare her noble birth. M. von A—— her husband, is, in every sense, worthy to possess a lady of so finished a character.

Supper being over I went to bed, quite contented with what I had seen, but quite afflicted with the loss of my portmanteau.

The next morning all the bells of the town gave notice to those who were to attend the procession, to repair to the castle, and take on them their functions, concerning which they had been informed the day before, by a particular instruction from  
baron

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baron Pollnitz. The drums at the same time beat the general, all the garrison assembled, and were ranged in two ranks, from the gate of the castle to the church door. The procession began about eleven. A detachment of the late kings regiment came first; then came all the domestics of that monarch in deep mourning; grooms, coachmen, footmen, hunters, valet de chambres, and pages. These were followd by the deputies of the tribunals of justice, the chambers of finances, and of all the courts, as well of the provinces as the city. Next came the deputies of the grand directory, and then the ministers of state of all the departments; and these were followd by the great officers of the crown, each of whom bore, on a cushion of purple velvet laced and fringed with gold, one of the ensigns of royalty; count Schwerin, in quality of hereditary great chamberlain, bore the scepter; and in like manner the rest. All the counsellors, ministers, generals, and great officers, were followd each one by his domestics.

domestics in state liverys, which altogether composed an immens train, and afforded a superb sight. At last came the funeral chariot, drawn by eight horses with long black coverings.

The coffin was uncovered. The canopy was supported by twelve major-generals, and the four ends, with their tassels, by four lieutenant-generals. Immediately after the chariot came mareschal Schwerin, bearing the great banner, and supported by two generals. Behind this banner, at some distance, walked the king, supported by the old reigning prince of Anhalt Dessau, and the duke of Holstein Beck, both mareschals. His majesty was followd by at least five hundred officers, generals, and others, who all marchd in ranks, and kept their lines like soldiers. The diversity of their uniforms, and the great number of these officers, all of noble familys, afforded the most grand and brilliant sight I have ever seen. After the officers came the prince of Prussia, supported by the hereditary prince Leopold,  
of



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of Anhalt and the prince of Zerbst: then came prince Henry, the kings second brother, supported by prince Thierry of Anhalt, and the young prince of Holstein: and then prince Ferdinand, the kings youngest brother, supported by the princes Eugene and Maurice of Anhalt; and lastly, the markgraves von Schwedt, Henry, Charles, and William, as princes of the blood, supported by lieutenant-generals. All the princes and noblemen were in the deepest mourning, with trailing cloaks and long crapes in their hats. Each of them was attended by their livery servants. The other generals followed after, two and two, and a second detachment of the late kings regiment, closed the train.

As the procession passed, the soldiers presented their arms, the drums beat the general, and the officers saluted with their esponsions and their colors. When the state chariot arrived at the door of the church, twelve ensigns, all of noble families, assisted by the four lieutenant-generals, and twelve major-

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major-generals, who had supported the canopy; took the coffin down from the chariot and bore it to the catafalque, that is a kind of stage constructed before the altar for reposing the coffin during the funeral rites; that which was erected on the present occasion and design'd by M. Knobelstorff, was a masterpiece of architecture, both in the invention and execution. It was coverd with a dome supported by pillars of the doric order, which were furrounded by statues of white marble, with vases and weeping genii; and the whole was intermixd with branches of cypres and chandeliers with large wax lights. Every part of the church was hung with mourning, and illuminated with crystal lamps, which were placed on the architecture of the choir and altar, in such manner that the cornice, the pilasters, the windows, and the pillars, were markd by the disposition of the lights.

When the king, and all who had assisted in the procession, were seated on the forms  
and

and in the gallerys, they began to sing the canticles, which the late king had himself appointed for this occasion; after which the funeral cantata that I have already mentiond was performd; and which I do assure you is highly excellent, as well in the poetry as in the music; there runs throughout it, a pathetic that melts, seizes, and transports the soul. The cantata being over, another funeral canticle was sung; during which the generals and ensigns deposited the coffin in the vault: and at that instant the cannon planted in the garden of the palace were fired, and the soldiers gave a general discharge. As the king came out of the church, the cannon and small arms were fired a second time; and a third discharge was made, when H. M. had enterd his apartment.

At noon there were several magnificent tables spread in the castle, for all those who had assisted at the funeral, and two tuns of old Rhenish wine were broachd, which the late king had expressly directed by his will  
to



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to be drank out at his funeral. The king dined alone in his chamber, and departed at five in the afternoon for Charlottenburg, where all the court followed him.

The next day the great and famous regiment of Frederic William was disbanded at Potzdam. The king has picked some of the finest men to incorporate with his regiment of Ruppín, which now bears the name of guards, and H. M. has augmented it to three battalions. The men who are the tallest and the least well made, are set apart to form a battalion, which is to be commanded by general Einsiedel, and which is to remain in garrison at Potzdam, and constantly to preserve the same uniform, arms, and exercise, as the regiment of the late king. Twelve subaltern officers, all men of extraordinary stature, have been chosen to serve in the king's livery as heyducks. These giants, clothed in castans, a sort of Turkish robe, and having on their heads high caps with plumes of feathers, resemble walking-colosses. The  
rest

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rest of this great regiment, will be incorporated with the five regiments of infantry, each of two battalions, which H. M. is now raising, and which they say are destined for prince Henry, prince Ferdinand, and the generals Munschow, Cammas, and Persode. It is affirmed that the late king proved to his son, by an exact calculation, a short time before his death, that H. M. might maintain ten thousand more men, and a superb opera at Berlin, for the expence that his tall regiment of Potzdam had alone cost him.

In all that the king has hitherto done, there manifestly appears great marks of genius, taste, prudence, and humanity. I expect tomorrow to take my leave of H. M. in order to return to Berlin, where I shall make the last preparations for my journey, and in a few days set off for Hannover, from whence I expect soon to have the pleasur of writing to you.

L E T T E R

## L E T T E R XV.

To the Privy Counsellor Jordan, at  
Berlin.

*Hannover, July 9, 1740.*

S I R,

**W**HEN you tell me that many respectable people at Berlin are angry at my silence, you flatter my vanity; as it is a proof that I am not totally indifferent to them, and you can scarce imagin how much desire I have to make friends in a land that I must hereafter regard as my country; and where I am a stranger, without support, and in a manner without any connexion. I should have made many faux pas, had I not met with guides like you, of a sound understanding, and a heart void of jealousy. I am ready to follow your advice, and shall write to all those you have mentiond, and which I should have already done

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done, if the kings affairs woud have allowed me leisure. I supposed beside that it will be proper to give them some account of my journey, and manner of living in Hannover: but Sir, I am as fatiated with accounts as the secretary of the imperial embassy was, the other day with deciphering. He had been employd all the last week, day and night, in deciphering dispatches: on Sunday, M. Munchhausen gave a grand ministerial dinner, to which the envoy and the secretary of legation of the imperial court were invited. The dẽsert was superb, and the principal piece represented a triumphal arch with the kings cipher: when that piece was placed on the table, it was admird by all the company; but the poor secretary hearing them talk about ciphers, and having his head full of his past labors, quitted the table and left the hous, asking as he went, what ciphers they were that required deciphering? The word Account woud have, I believe, the same effect on

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me;



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me; tho in general I have neither dread nor aversion for busines.

Our journey from Berlin to Hannover was pleasant, and my health has been constantly good: nothing occurr'd in our rout worthy of remark, except that when we arriv'd at Spandau, we found near a fourth part of the town on fire; the flames had reach'd the principal church, melted the bells, and the metal ran about the street. The hous of general von Derschau, where we stopd,\* was but litle distant; but notwithstanding the confusion he receiv'd us very politely, and gave us a collation, with plenty of Champagne; and while the juice of the grape flow'd at the governors, the soldiers by the aid of water, extinguish'd the flames; and we pursued our journey.

I have lately sent baron Pollnitz a short account of the reception we have had at Hannover, and of our manner of living here: and I doubt not but he will shew you my letter. I shall therefore content myself with telling you, my dear friend, that  
we

we go regularly twice a day, to Herenhau-  
 sen, to make our court. As I seldom play,  
 I profit by the fine weather, and walk after  
 dinner in the pleasant alleys of the garden,  
 or I seat myself in some retired bower, and  
 am seldom without a book; for I find that  
 an excellent antidote against the insipidity  
 of a court. I follow your advice, and in-  
 tend to make a regular study of the ancient  
 poets, orators, and historians, in order to  
 form my taste. I began with Homer, and  
 have gone through both the Iliad and the  
 Odyssey. As, like Henrietta in the Fem-  
 mes Savantes, I dont understand Greek,  
 I make use of the French translation of  
 Madam Dacier. Pardon, my dear friend,  
 the rash declaration I am going to make,  
 but I must confes that it was with great  
 constraint that I went through with the  
 reading of your Homer. Perhaps this is  
 blasphemy against Apollo; but why did  
 not that god bestow on me his influence?  
 why did he not animate my imagination,  
 that I might discern all the beauties of this  
 father

father of epic poetry, who has been the admiration of so great a number of the literati for near three thousand years? I am very far from wishing to revive the dispute concerning the excellency of the ancients or moderns, nor shall I here repeat what M. de la Motte has so judiciously remarkd in his reflexions on criticism, where he maintains the part of the moderns against Mad. Dacier, who is the champion of the ancients. One of our friends says, *that in this dispute Mad. Dacier argues like a dusty pedant, and M. de la Motte like a sprightly amiable woman.* But it seems to me that this man of genius has not said all that might have been said, and that is allowable for a daring young fellow like myself, whose opinion is of no authority, to add what he has omitted. At the worst, you will suppose that it is my ignorance which makes me communicate these doubts and errors, that I may receive from your learning and discernment, better information. I am under no apprehension that you will apostro-



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phy me, as Boileau did Perrault on the same subject, in the following epigram :

Pour quelque vain discours sottement avancé,  
Contre Homère, Platon, Cicéron, ou Virgile;  
Caligula partout fût traité d'insensé,  
Néron de furieux; Hadrien d'imbécile.  
Vous donc, qui dans la même erreur,  
Avec plus d'ignorance, & non moins de fureur,  
Attaque ces héros de la Grece & de Rome:  
Perrault, fussiez vous empereur,  
Comment voules vous qu'on vous nomme ?

*If for some silly remarks idly advanced against Homer, Plato, Cicero, or Virgil; Caligula was every where treated as a sot, Nero as a madman, and Adrian as an idiot; you therefore, who in the same error attack these heroes*



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*beros of Greece and Rome, with more ignorance and not less rage : Perrault, if you were emperor, what should we call you?*

You are much too modest and too polite, to talk in so dictatorial and so grosse a style. On the contrary, I am inclined to think that you will read the following remarks with some indulgence.

I shall set off with advancing no small paradox. I begin to think, *that a man of sens who does not understand Greek, will make a truer judgment of Homer, than a scholar who has made a painful study of that language.* In our early youth, every thing that strikes the imagination, and produces our first ideas, by attracting our regard, or demanding a close application, impresses on our minds, even to the verge of life, a constant and unavoidable admiration. Thus during the whole cours of life, we reflect on the simple sayings of our nurses, and regard our masters and professors as almost infallible ; and from the same caus, we are

constant in the prejudices of our education, and doubtless from hence also arises the obstinacy of the professors of erroneous opinions in religious matters. The learning of the dead languages is attended with infinite labor; and when we find any thing in a Greek or Latin author that is rational or striking, our vanity is so flattered with comprehending it, that by a sort of acknowledgment, we immediately regard it as sublime and infallible. Add to this, that the preceptors, and the professors of classical learning, in explaining these authors, inspire us with a kind of veneration for them, and oftentimes makes us look on that as a true beauty, which among the moderns would be regarded as false or trifling.

Let not therefore this long and universal admiration of Homer by mankind, continue to deceive us: for there is nothing in it that is either wonderful or conclusive, to a philosophic mind. If a monarch was to decree, (I will not say the *Paradise Lost* of Milton, the *Jerusalem* deliver'd of Tasso, the *Louisiade*

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Louisia de of Camoens, and the Henriade of Voltaire;) but what is still much more, that the Rolando Furioso of Ariosto; the adventures of the belle Madelona of Provence, or the book of l'Espiégle, should be considerd in his dominions as classic authors, and should establish professors to explain them, and to point out all their beautys, I woud venture to pronounce, in the name of experience, that these books woud run through a hundred impressiions; woud be enrichd with notes and commentaries, and revered in *seculum seculorum*. Now we learn from history that Homer was erected into a classic author by the decrees of the Grecian republics; that several citys disputed the honor of his birth place, and maintaind copyists to transcribe his poems; and if any one was bold enough to criticise his works, he was not only regarded as a Zoilus, but was in danger of being proscribed by the senate, and evil treated by the people. The Romans, even till the time of Augustus, had no other epic poem



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than that of Homer, and paid but little regard to works of the imagination. It is not therefore very surprising that they should be content with these. During the reigns of the following emperors, the taste for letters continually degenerated, and the approbation of the middle ages is by no means a certain proof of the merit of any work. It seems therefore, to me, that the argument drawn from the constant admiration of so many centuries, is far from being so conclusive as some would pretend. But what is still more, I am clearly convinced, that Homer did not perfectly understand his own language, and that his style is not remarkably good (tho the mixture of different dialects, which runs thro his poems, appears to me odd enough) but as diction is to thought, what dress is to a man, and as among the vulgar more than one man is admired for the pageantry of his appearance, it may very well happen that the vulgar learned may suffer themselves to be dazzled by the pomp and flourish in the style



style of Homer : whereas a man who does not understand Greek, sees, to use the expression, the naked mind of the poet, and examines as a neutral and unprejudiced scrutator, the body of his thoughts. It is here, Sir, that I find many remarks to make ; permit me to point out the most material ; I shall pass them over as briefly as possible, that I may not protract this letter, which I perceive is degenerating, whether I will or not, into a dissertation.

Why must these two poems of Homer, be the models for all others ? They appear to me to favor strongly of that imperfection which accompanys first productions of every kind. Do you think it impossible to imagin a quite different plan, or to change and improve that of this first inventor ? Indeed, if tedious episodes, constantly repeated ; if endles harangues, or rather sermons, in their counsels, and at the head of their troops, which were not only unnatural, but in a great degree useles, as far the greatest part of an army that was

spread over at least a league of ground, could not possibly hear them; if a nauseous repetition of the same ideas, and the same circumstances; and a continual interposition of their gods, whenever their heroes committed any blunder: if, I say, all these, which make the constituent parts of Homers work, are of the essence of an epic poem, I must confess that it appears to me to be an invention only proper to amuse children, and that the sensible part of mankind are much to be pity'd, when they are forced to draw lessons of wisdom from such a source; to reap instruction from so disgustful an employment.

Madam Dacier is so much possess'd with the merit of the author, who has given her so much pains in translating, that she is continually crying out, in her notes, even sometimes in those places where Homer says the most insignificant things: O! what poetry! what divine poetry! and in her preface, she maintains, after Vellejus Paterculus, *that Homer had no one before him whom he*  
*could*

*could imitate, nor has there been any one since who has been able to follow him: and presently after, That there never was a poet that could reach the heights of Homer, or that could even comprehend his art: if they call art the productions of a heated imagination, that is continually at variance with common sense, it seems to me, that the loss of this art is no great misfortune to mankind, if it be lost. Read, I entreat you, the preface that Mad. Dacier has placed at the head of the Odyssy, and you will see what reasoning, prejudice, and the spirit of party, can produce in a woman, otherwise of great ability. After heaping together a number of wretched arguments, in order to justify her divine Homer, she makes an attack on M. Perrault, and having first allowed, that he was a man of sense, a good author, and had beside all the qualitys that form an honest, worthy man; and after giving him many other commendations, she concludes by saying, that all these good qualitys were effaced or clouded by one fault: and what was that*

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fault? Will you believe it? He did not relish Homer: nay, he even dared to criticise him. Horrible crime, that could tarnish all the talents and all the virtues of a worthy man! For mercys sake, Sir, do not in this case treat me as would a Dacier, but constantly continue your friendship to me. I have only proposed you my doubts in general, at another opportunity I shall explain my reasons more particularly. Salute all our common friends, and believe me to be without limitation, &c.

L E T T E R



## L E T T E R XVI.

To the Privy Counsellor Jordan, at  
Berlin.

*Hannover, July 30, 1740.*

**I**T is then your pleasure, Sir, that I should continue to communicate to you my ideas concerning Homer, and you suspend your judgment till you see the conclusion. I obey, but it is with trembling; tho I flatter myself that these remarks will never be read by any eyes but yours: but if, contrary to my intention, they should transpire, and should also be found not strictly just, I expect from the equity of the public, a judgment less severe than that which the outrageous partisans of the ancients pronounce against the sens and taste of their adversaries.

Let us first examin the fable of the Iliad and the Odyssy: the subject of the first is,

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“the

“ the wrath of Achilles; who quarrels with  
 “ Agamemnon about his mistress, and re-  
 “ tires to a distance, to brood over his rage.  
 “ Their foes, profiting by this dissension,  
 “ gain some advantages; but the two chiefs  
 “ being reconciled, defeat their common  
 “ enemy.” In the Odyssy, “ Ulysses for-  
 “ sakes his native country : his absence oc-  
 “ casions great disorders in his family : but  
 “ after wandering many years, he returns to  
 “ his country, kills his enemys, and re-esta-  
 “ blishes his government.” I confess that  
 all the art of Homer was necessary to make  
 of such trifling subjects, what he has made ;  
 but where was the necessity of his making  
 choice of such subjects ? Did not the his-  
 tory and fable of his time offer those that  
 were more noble and pathetic ? Compare  
 these subjects to those which modern epic  
 poets have treated, and judge without pre-  
 judice. Read Milton, who has described  
 the loss of paradise and immortality ; sub-  
 jects that are of all others the most essenti-  
 ally interesting to human nature, and which  
 offer

## L E T T E R XVI. 181

offer the highest beautys, without having recours to episodes and other foreign ornaments ; in a word, a subject which enables the poet, to use the expression, to become the painter of the terrestrial paradise, and all the beautys of natur. Camoens describes to us the discovery of a new country, almost a new world, by the aid of the important art of navigation ; and from this discovery arises the source of the communication and commerce between the two principal parts of the inhabited earth. Tasso paints in pleasing colors, the city of Jerusalem, which forms an object of the most profound veneration, to all who bear the name of Christians ; and the delivery of that city, where the Saviour of the world expired on the cross, for the redemption of mankind, from the yoke of the Mahometans. M. Voltaire has drawn a model for kings and heroes, in the person of Henry IV. one of the greatest monarchs the earth ever produced : who by his virtues and exploits, became at once the conqueror and the



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the father of his people. These are subjects that appear to me to be truly great, and worthy of the majesty of an epic poem.

Let us come to the invocation: we shall not examin here, whether it be necessary or not; but it should seem that those which Homer has made, must have produced a strange effect on the minds of his cotemporaries. He begins his Iliad with these words: *Goddeſs, ſing the wrath of Achilles, the ſon of Peleus, &c.* and his Odyſſy thus: *Muſe, relate the adventures of that wiſe man, who after having ruind the ſacred town of Troy, wanderd many years in different countrys, &c.* When the poet wrote this, the pagan religion prevaild every where; and conſequently the names Goddeſs and Muſe muſt have excited in the minds of the pagans different ideas, from what they do in ours, who regard their divinitys as fabulous. What ſhould we ſay, if a poet was now to begin his work with theſe words: *Holy virgin, ſing the wrath of Charles XII.*

*ſon.*



*son of Charles XI. or Saint Genivive, relate the adventures of that wise man, who, after having ruind the citys of Italy and Germany, re-establisbd the empire of the east, &c. And what goddess is this, moreover, whom Homer invokes in his Iliad? It seems to me, that Madam Dacier was not acquainted with her; and that the matter well deserves to be clearly explaind.*

I think that the series of recital in a poem, shoud be different from that of a history, but in both cases the readers natural curiosity makes him impatient to know the event: and perhaps this curiosity is stronger in the simple action of a poem, than in a regular history, where a great number of facts succeed each other. It seems to me, therefore, necessary to prevent, by episodes, allegorys, similys, &c. the drynes of narration in an epic poem; but all these ornaments require to be disposed with discretion, and not thrown profusely over every part. Now it appears to me, that in the poems of Homer the principal

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principal action is drown'd in the episodes and digressions. The attention of the reader is not engaged and suspended; but his impatience is put to the rack, and the thread of the narration is so interrupted by these trifling embellishments, that his memory cannot recal the far distant facts. Do you call these beautys that are essential to the epopea? Or are they imperfections, or real faults? I shall not determin. Enlighten my understanding, Sir, if I am blind enough to take one thing for the other: but I will venture to assert, that never any man of discernment has read, in our days, the poems of Homer quite thro without wearines.

Are all these metaphors, these allegorys and similyls, moreover, diversifyd, noble and graceful? By no means. We see the sage Homer constantly falling into repetitions, into low and trivial expressions. Were I to write a dissertation on these matters, I could cite thirty verses that contain the same idea, and where I conjecture in  
the

## L E T T E R XVI. 185

the original, he makes use of the same expressions. He twenty times repeats, sometimes of his heros, and sometimes of his gods, *that after they had well eat and drank, they did such or such a thing. Handsom Juno with grey eyes*, occurs in almost every page, with many other like repetitions. I am not ignorant that the patrons of Homer remark, that every judicious reader will transport himself in idea, to the age and place where the poet wrote, and will judge of the thoughts and expressions, by the manners and customs of those distant times, which are totally different from those of our days. But, my dear friend, my censure does not fall on the images and comparisons taken from objects dependent on inconstant customs and usages, but on those that are drawn from nature, and which remain the same in all ages and all places. Regard, I beseech you, an ox or an ass, and consider if a man of sound sense could ever make a rational and polite comparison of such  
stupid



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stupid and and clumsy animals as those, to gods or heros. But suppose those similyes and images had been noble and brilliant in the days of Homer, they certainly are not so in our days. I will allow the cotemporarys of this poet to have thought them sublime, provided I am permitted to find them otherwise three thousand years after; and living in an age of greater learning, and of different manners, I may be allowd to say, that I find them neither entertaining nor instructive. It seems to me, that when gods and heros are introduced into any work, whatever may be the religion and country of the writer, he ought not to make them talk idly, or give them the manners and sentiments of porters or futers, of pirates or highwaymen. Madam Dacier says justly, that a poet can give to gods no other language than that of men; but he should not, at least, make them talk the language of the meanest of mankind. On the contrary, he should give them that style in which Corneille, Racine, Voltaire,



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Voltaire, Crebillon, Fenelon, and some others, make their heros and demigods discours.

M. Voltaire says, in his Essay on Epic Poetry; "with regard to what they call vulgar, in the heros of Homer, they may laugh as much as they pleas, at seeing Patroclus, in the ninth book of the Iliad, put three legs of mutton into a pot, light and blow the fire, and dres the dinner with Achilles. Achilles and Patroclus, are not for this the less illustrious. Charles XII. king of Sweden, was his own cook for six months, at Demir Tocca, without losing any thing of his heroism; and the greatest part of our generals, who carry with them to the camp all the luxury of an effeminate court, will find it a hard matter to equal these heros who dresd their own dinners, &c."

I readily allow that Achilles and Charles XII. will be always regarded as very respectable heros, tho the one put the mutton in the pot, and the other the fowls upon

upon the spit; but were I to make either of these great men the subject of an epic poem, I think I should act very absurdly to insert such trifling and disinteresting anecdotes of their private life, and that my readers would have a very good right to laugh at my expence, or at least to be disgusted with reading my relation.

It seems to me, moreover, that Madam Dacier and the other admirers of Homer, have not always a discernment nice enough to distinguish between the sublime and bombast. When Jupiter, by one sneeze, makes all Olympus tremble; or when another god, to transport himself to a certain place, takes three steps, and at the fourth arrives at the end of the earth; I find nothing in this more sublime than in the tales of the fairys, or of the man with the blue beard and great boots, who went seven leagues at one stride. In most of these passages which pass for sublime, and in general, in the finest inventions of Homer, probability, and even possibility, physical and moral, appear

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appear to me to be violated. Read, I conjure you, the description which he gives, in the eighteenth book of the Iliad, of the shield of Achilles, and judge, if it be possible for all the adventures that he there relates to be engraved on a shield, how large soever you may suppose it to be: and if, by the art of Vulcan, the thing were possible, a shield engraved with such minute strokes, when seen at a distance, must appear to be a piece of armour in a very bad taste; and, at the same time, very ridiculous. The imagination of an author must be either very barren, or extravagantly heated, who can so illy place the accounts he would relate, or the ornaments with which he would embellish his work. See with how much more taste and probability, Tasso has placed the paintings of the loves of Achilles, of Hercules and Omphale, of Antony and Cleopatra, &c. over the doors of the palace of Armida, through which Renauld was obliged to pass, to arrive at the closet where his mistress attended him.



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There are many more remarks that I could make on Homer, but I shall here desist, for it is not my design to enter into a controversy, or write a dissertation. Perhaps I have already said too much. Permit me to conclude with one more reflection, which is, that the merit of an author always appears to me suspicious, when his partisans are obliged to have recours to so many subtiltys to defend him. It is at least evident, that the beautys of his work are not universaly pleasing; and the manifest inequalitys that are found in the writings of this poet, have long since given rise to that well known saying:

*Interdum dormitat bonus Homerus.*

From what I have here said, do not conclude, my dear friend, that I am in the least dissatisfyd with you, for having recommended to me the reading of this author. Far otherwise: I owe you a great obligation; for I am at all times highly pleas'd to becom acquainted with the arts in their origin, and with all their first imperfections.



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perfections. Beside, a man must be totally destitute of taste and discernment, who does not find numberles real beautys in Homer. And this we ought to acknowledge with the same freedom that we remark his defects. I admire, I am charmd with those sublime passages I met with in this poet; but I laugh at the enthusiasm of his bigotted admirers, who would justify all his imperfections, and who publicly accuse every one of ignorance or insincerity, who will not take that which is mean or faulty, for beautiful or sublime. Tell me, after all, I entreat you, am I right or wrong? Your judgment has so great an authority over mine, that you will find it very ready to submit; for I acknowledge most freely, that error is the lot of humanity, and especialy of so weak a humanity as mine. I have the honor to be, in expectation of your answer, Sir, &c.

L E T T E R

## LETTER XVII.

To Baron von Pollnitz, at Berlin.

*Hannover, Aug. 6, 1740.*

SIR,

SO then, the king is returnd to Konigf-  
berg in Prussia! I give you many  
thanks for the relation you have had the  
goodnes to send me of his majestys jour-  
ney. I have read it to some persons of  
merit here, who are in raptures with those  
marks of clemency and greatnes of soul,  
that the king has every where shewn; and  
with that ingenious manner in which you  
recount all these actions, and the remark-  
able ceremonys that have accompanyd the  
reception of homages. This interesting  
description is, in a manner, a continuation  
of your memoirs, which afford such pleas-  
ing entertainment to the polite world. We  
are not surpris'd that the king has not  
2 been

been crown'd. Frederic, the first king of Prussia, had good reasons for submitting to that ceremony ; but his successors receive the crown from the hands of Providence, and not from their subjects. They content themselves with administering the oath of fidelity to the troops, to the nobility, and the people. Mess. Dacier, medallists at Geneva, have just struck a very fine and large medal, which corresponds with this idea. It is in bronze ; on one side is seen the bust of the king, with the usual inscription, *Fredericus II. Rex Borussiae* ; and on the exergue, his majestys motto, *Pro patria & pro gloria*. The revers represents the city of Königsberg, over which is an eagle with extended wings, and these words ; *Rex natura*.

The king, who is not fond of ceremonies, is I believe very well pleas'd with avoiding this, tho he will have others to undergo in his journey to Westphalia, Cleves, and Wesel. All these journeys well form so many courses of exercises for



you courtiers. Your minds, as well as your bodys, must be not a litle solaced with the intervals of rest. To amuse your leisur, permit me, Sir, to send you a short account of our sojourn at Hannover; which you may not regard as altogether indifferent, seeing you are acquainted with the principal actors who shine on this theatre.

Scarce had Frederic William closed his eyes, before we saw arrive at Berlin, as you remember, baron Munchhausen, first minister of the king of Great Britain, in his electorate of Hannover, in order to present on the part of H. Britannic M. the compliments of condolence and felicitation to our new king. This arrival was so sudden, that baron Munchhausen could not have receivd the order from London, since the death of the late king. From whence we conclude, that the embassy of this minister had been determind in England, from the time they knew of the dangerous disorder of the Prussian monarch; and this  
re-

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remarkable attention gives room to conjecture, that the court of London endeavours to prevent ours, by so much politenes, in order to efface the remembrance of that personal animosity, which subsisted from their early youth, between Frederic William and the king of Great Britain, and by which their ministers have been frequently greatly embarrassd. They say that this natural antipathy, which is wors than hatred, had once rose so high, that the two monarchs, after the example of Charles V. and Francis I. had determind to decide it by single combat; that the king of England had fixd on brigadier Sutton for his second; and that his Prussian majesty had made choice of colonel Derschau; that the territory of Hildersheim was appointed for the rendezvous. H. Britannic M. was then at Hannover, and H. Prussian M. was already arrivd at Saltzdahl, near Brunswick. Baron von Bork, who had been the Prussian minister at London, and was dismissd from that court in a very ungracious man-

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ner, arriving at Saltzdahl, found the king his master, in so violent a rage, that he did not think it adviseable, directly to oppose his design; but on the contrary, in order to gain time, seemd to approve of the choice of a single combat, and even offerd his service to carry the cartel. But entring the kings appartment about an hour after, he took the liberty to say, “Sire, I am convincd that your majestys quarrel ought not to be decided but by a duel, and if I may be allowd the expresseion, as between one gentleman and another. But your majesty is scarce recoverd from a dangerous illnes, and have still remaining all the symptoms of your late disorder: how unfortunate therefore woud it be, if you shoud relaps the evening before the combat, or even that very morning; what a triumph woud it be for the English king? and what woud the world say? what odious suspicions woud it cast upon your majestys courage? Woud it not therefore be far better to postpone the affair for a few days,



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till your majestys health is establisht?" The king, they say, acquiesced, tho with difficulty, in these reasonings; the cartel was not sent; the ministers on both sides gaind time; the wrath of the two kings by degrees evaporated; and by the next year they became in a manner reconciled.

I do assure you, Sir, that we do not now find the least traces here of that ancient animosity between the houses of Prussia and Great Britain: it seems to have been buried in the grave with Frederic William. We find nothing at Herrenhausen, but politeness and attention. That court seems to endeavour after a close and sincere attachment with ours; and if I am not mistaken, will be charmd to cement this new connection, by a marriage between the prince of Prussia and the princess Louisa of Great Britain, of whom they talk with raptures.

We had no sooner lighted at the hotel of London, where appartments were prepared for us, then count Troughses sent captain von Queis to lord Harrington, the English

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secretary of state, and to baron Munchhausen, to notify our arrival. The latter came, about an hour after, to visit all the embassy; talkd with great respect to the count, and advisd him not to make use of his credentials immediately, in order to avoid much troublesom ceremony; but to remain tranquil at home for a couple of days; to receive the visits of all the court, and to prepare for his public audience, which he promis'd shoud be the third day. The count followd his advice. The next day we put on our mourning habits, and receivd, in fact, the visits of all the ministers, generals, courtiers, and in short, every one of any distinction in Hannover. Our rooms were throngd with a continued procession. The day of audience baron Munchhausen came to take us in the kings coaches, which were very magnificent. He sat with count Troughses in the first. In the second were two Hannoverian gentlemen. Then came the grand state mourning coach, drawn by six horses, and preceded

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ceded by two marshals : the pages were on the outside, and two gentlemen of our embassy within. Next came the counts second mourning coach, with the third gentleman of the embassy ; and lastly, came my coach, and in which I sat, rather uncomfortably, alone. Some empty coaches, belonging to the principal ministers, closed the procession. At the gates of the city, and on entering the court of the palace of Herrenhausen, the guards presented their arms, the officers made the salute, and the drums beat the march.

We were conducted into an antichamber, where we found the whole court assembled, and in a mourning almost as deep as our own. Count Troughses wore a peruque of an immens size, and a cloak that traild some yards behind him, which gave to his figur of six foot high, a very singular appearance. In about a quarter of an hour, lord Harrington came to introduce us to the audience. The doors of the hall were thrown open, and the king of Great Britain

appeared in all his glory. He was dresd in purple, and adornd with his grand order of the garter. Count Troughses presented his credentials with a good deal of grace, and with an air of dignity, but he had not time to make a long harangue; for the king interrupted and answerd him with the greatest goodnes; and afterward talkd to him with an air of cordiality, that delighted every one who beheld him. H. M. coud not sufficiently admire his grave and solemn appearance, and said to him softly, with a smile, *Count Troughses, one woud imagin by your appearance, that you were in despair for the loss of your late master.* We were all of us afterwards presented to H. M. who said to each of us, something gracious and condescending. When we came out of the hall of audience, the count laid aside his cloak, and soon after sat down to table. Our ambassador had the honor to dine with the king; and we had an excellent dinner at the table of the mareschal. When the king rose from table we returnd  
into



into the hall where H. M. dined, and where we found a great number of courtiers of the first quality, who receivd us glass in hand. The great cupbearer was at his post, that is to say, at the buffet, and exercised the functions of his office with the best grace in the world, by charging us with numberles bumpers. After this Germanic ceremony, we were presented with coffee, and then conducted into the large and noble garden. This garden is rather superb than pleasing: the allys are spacious, and the hedges are high and beautiful. There are basons of water, and fountains that are admirable. The grand jet in the middle, is the finest in the whole world: it is two feet in diameter, and usualy rises 80 feet high, but when all the machines are going, it may be raisd to 120 feet. The day the king shewd this matchles fountain to the dutchess of Dorset, I was a witnes with what impetuosity this water rises into the air, and then falls down like a liquid and transparent mountain, especially in calm

weather. The bason, tho large, is not of a sufficient width: there reigns too much uniformity in these gardens, and they have no prospect. The verdant theatre is one of their greatest ornaments.

After the walk there was a French comedy: the company is a very good one. Mlle la Vois, Mlle Amоче, and Mess. Serigni and du Clos, are the best actors. On coming out from the comedy, the king took another walk; and all the court attended him. We supd at Herrenhausen, and about midnight returnd to Hannover; quite satisfyd with the gracious reception we had met with both from the king and all the court.

The days pass here with a uniformity very much like that of a convent. Every morning at eleven, and every afternoon about six, we go to Herrenhausen, thro an endles alley of lime trees, scorched by the sun; and twice in the day our mourning cloths and equipages are coverd with dust. The king eats by rotation with the same  
com-

company ; makes every night a party at ombre, with the same persons, sups and goes to bed. There is twice in a week a French comedy, and the other days are devoted to play in the great gallery ; so that were H. M. constantly to reside at Hannover, one might make a kind of almanac for ten years to come ; and predict what dishes woud be servd each day at his table ; what woud be his employments, and what his amusements. Notwithstanding all which I dont find the time here in any degree tedious. The first days were spent in receiving and paying visits. I am very often invited to dine or sup with some of the principal persons in the city : I walk, I eat, I drink, I sleep, make love, negotiate, write my dispatches, cipher and decipher ; add to all this, our jaunts to Herrenhausen, and you will see that I have employment enough for any reasonable man.

I find beside, among the courtiers that are here, a considerable number of men of sens and merit ; from whose conversation

I receive both instruction and amusement. There is not, moreover, any one prince in Germany, great or small, that does not send a minister to compliment H. Britannic M. on his arrival in his electoral dominions. Foreigners also arrive here from every quarter; but they are, for the most part, birds of passage, who disappear at the end of a certain number of days;—so that Herrenhausen resembles a dove house, or, if you pleas, a magic lantern, where the objects pass rapidly before the spectators eyes.

They make, in general, very good cheer, at Hannover, but especialy at M. von B——. He is a tall, well-made man, of an agreeable appearance; has a good deal of wit, and still more money. He was formerly employd as envoy from the elector of Hannover, at Paris; and on his return from thence, had the misfortune, by the kick of a hors, to lose one of his eyes: the blow was so violent that the nerves and the muscles of the other eye were greatly injured



injured at the same time. This accident gave him inexpressible pain; and he was obliged, by order of his physicians, to observe a very exact regimen, and which was to him still more insupportable than the pain itself. The remaining eye, notwithstanding, became every day worse; and at last his doctors inform'd him that it was impossible to save it; that in a few days he would lose his sight entirely; but that he would be deliver'd from his pains, and might then live as he pleas'd. He receiv'd this news with transports of joy: he regulated all his affairs as long as his sight lasted; saw every thing that was curious, furnish'd and set his house in order, and waited the total eclipse of his sight with as much impatience as another man would have waited for a recovery. At length his eyes were both extinct. With his last eye he lost his griefs; and from that day began to live again. As he has neither wife nor child, he has devoted a considerable part of his income to his table. It is regularly served for  
twelve

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twelve persons, with great abundance and equal delicacy. This gentleman seems, by the loss of his sight, to have improv'd his other senses : his feeling, his taste, and hearing, are amazingly acute. His chief pleasur is in drinking healths to his friends, in bumpers, and in which they are obliged to pledge him: the butler always brings the great glass to him before he carries it to the guest ; he touches it on the outside, and by a certain degree of coolnes which penetrates the pores of the glass, he distinguishes minutely how high it is filld; and if it be the least deficient, orders it immediately to be supplyd. He knows so exactly the situation of the table, the arrangement of the dishes, and the places of the guests, that one is inclined to suspect he still sees all that pass'es. He talks a good deal and agreeably; he rides out attended by his gentleman; and is dresd with taste and propriety. In short, the loss of sight appears to be a matter of so litle consequence to him,

him, that one is almost inclined to think he had formerly two eyes too many.

I sometimes amuse myself with seeing the curiosities of Hannover and its environs. The library is numerous and well chosen. The kings ecurys are noble, and his horses extremely valuable. The tomb of the ancient electors, in the chapel of the palace, is worthy of notice. The body of George I. who died at Osnabruck in 1727, is there deposited in a silver coffin of admirable workmanship. The palace, though considerably large, is of wood: the apartments are but indifferent, and the furniture in an antique taste. The gardens of count Platin, at Linsden, which is just by Hannover, are delicious. They say we shall have a masked ball there, when the king returns to this city. The troops will not be reviewed till after the harvest: and that in consequence of the paternal affection which the king has for his rural subjects. The court of Cassel is expected at Hannover, about the same time. Ye Gods, what joys we have in store!

May

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May the like good fortune attend you, my dear baron, when the king our master returns from his circuits; for they say Berlin will be infinitely brilliant this winter. Who knows whether H. M. orders will not bring me back about the same time? I shall rejoice to have it in my power to embrace you, and to express, face to face, that great esteem which I entertain for you: but if I should not enjoy that happiness, permit me, at least sometimes, to assure you by writing, that no man living is more perfectly than I am,

S I R,

Yours, &c.

LETTER



## L E T T E R XVIII.

To Madam von Br\*\*\*, at Berlin.

*Hannover, Aug. 19, 1740.*

M A D A M,

**I** Dont know who that great man was, who first invented the posts, but I know very well that mankind have great obligations to him. What resource, for example, could a gallant man have, who is constrained by his destiny to live far distant from the object he adores? It is, at least, some consolation to a desponding lover: though I must confess, it is but a very poor one; and that every man who has a real attachment, may say to his mistress, with M. Voltaire;

Heureux cent fois le mortel amoureux,  
Qui tous les jours peut te voir & t'entendre;

Qui tu reçois avec un souris tendre,  
Qui voit son sort écrit dans tes beaux yeux.

Qui

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Qui meurt d'amour, qui te plait, qui  
t'adore,

Qui pénétré de cent plaisirs divers,  
A tes genoux, oubliant l'univers,  
Parle d'amour, & t'en re parle encore :  
Mais malheur a celui qui sent cet aiguillon,  
Et ne peut t'en parler que par le postillon.

A hundred times that amorous mortal's  
blest,

Who hears thee still, and gazes o'er thy  
charms,

Who sees the smile that all his bosom  
warms,

Who reads his fate in thy fair eyes exprest.

Who dies of love, who pleases, who adores,

Who with a hundred various transports  
fired,

The world forgetting, at thy feet inspired,  
Of loves dear joys incessant strains he  
pours :

But wretched he, constrained to tell the  
tale,

Of all his amorous transports, by the mail.

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I dare not, madam, make a general application of these verses to the situation in which I find myself, with regard to you. I am, indeed, that amorous mortal who cannot express his tender sentiments but by means of the mail; but I have never yet been that fortunate mortal who has had the happiness to please you, and whom you have permitted to forget the whole world at your feet. I do, indeed, forget it, when I read your divine letter, and which is in all things perfect, except that it wants some little tincture of human tenderness.

You desire, madam, that I would send you the portraits of lady Yarmouth, and of the principal beauties of Hannover. Be assured that there is no one of them that has been able to efface from my heart those traces I brought with me from Berlin, and which will for ever remain there deeply engraved. I must, however, confess to you; that were it allowable for mortals to covet those enjoyments which belong to the Gods, I do not think it would be possible for any  
man

man of taste and sensibility to avoid being in love with the countess of Yarmouth. She is not, however, either a perfect or a blooming beauty; but she possesses those charms which are more captivating than even beauty itself. Her countenance is round; her eyes large, of a bright blue, and very piercing; the nose and mouth quite regular, with a smile that is tender and pleasing: a complexion fair and smooth, not too much color; and light hair: a neck admirably fine, with hands and feet elegant though not slender. Her shape is perfectly regular, and her stature precisely between tall and short; but, if I am not mistaken, inclined to be corpulent. The whole together, forms a figure that strikes the eye at once with delight: but her mind appears to me still far more beautiful than her person; she has a wit that is refined and gay, but at the same time modest, which prevents it from assuming over that of others, or bursting into immoderate fits of mirth. Her conversation is highly agreeable; and she  
speaks



speaks French, English, and German, with equal perfection. The kings esteem for her, appears to be nothing inferior to his affection; and in return, she is as much, or more attachd to the person of the king, than to his roialty. A rare instance in a favourit: she may justly serve as a model to all others. Content with the handsom provision the king has made for her, she does not weary him with sollicitations either for herself, her relations, her creatures, or dependants. We do not see her family heaping up immens fortunes, nor the highest and most important offices of the state filld by obscure men that are related, or pretend to be related to her. She does not attempt to interfere in the affairs of government, and to reduce the kings subjects to indigence and misery by her councils, or to bring the state to the brink of ruin, by her personal animosities.\* She cannot reproach

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\* We are very far from wishing to depreciate the character of this lady, who so well deservd all that  
our

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herself with having causd streams of blood to flow by her insinuations, or that the first familys of the kingdom mourn the loss of their relations, sacrificed to her humor. Nor can she be accused of having introduced a destructive luxury, or a spirit of dissipation among the people. In a word, she is neither vindictive, covetous, vain, or ambitious; altho loaded with honors and distinctions at Hannover. The same court is here paid to her as to a princess; she dines and sups regularly with the king, and makes every evening one of his party

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our author has said of her; and what is more, had the uncommon good fortune to enjoy it, for many years, amidst a people ever jealous of foreigners, and of their own prerogatives. But we cannot avoid remarking here, in justice to the memory of the late king, that had any favourit whatever, ignorant of the affairs of government, and directed by personal motives, attempted to influence his conduct, the firm temper of that prince woud have been so far from complying, that the attempt woud infallibly have ended in her own ruin.

at

at ombre. At the theatre she sits in an arm'd chair, which is placed by the side of that in which the king sits; while all the other ladys, tho of the highest quality, are placed at some distance behind. Her attention to H. M. is boundles. She never quits Herrenhausen to come to Hannover, but to visit madam von Wend, her mother, or madam von Steinberg, her sister; and it is but very rare that she dines or sups with either of them. She dined, however, a few days since, with the latter, when a droll incident occur'd. Among the company was a strange gentleman, and who, it seems, knew but litle of the country, for after dinner he drank to the countes, the health of count Yarmouth. You may imagin what was that ladys confusion, and what the looks of the rest of the company. The distinctions, however, which this lady receives here, she always leaves behind her, for they never pass the sea with her, and accompany her to London. It is said, that the English ladys are not a litle piqued

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piqued to see the preference given to the Hannoverian beautys, by their monarchs, from father to son. This indifference toward the beautys of that nation, we must allow is mortifying: but love is a capricious child that will not suffer himself to be ruled by policy. Lady Yarmouth finds the consequences of this jealousy, they are continually raising so many disputes about rank, and other like matters, that she scarce sees any one at London, but madam von Steinberg, and the ladys of the foreign ministers. She does not appear in the circle at court, but lives almost incognito in St. James's palace.

Among the other Hannoverian ladys, there are some that are very amiable, but no one that shines with any remarkable lustre. Their behaviour toward strangers is as cold as the ice. The Hannoverians are like the Israelites, who never marry out of their own tribe. The finest ladys who grace the circle of Herrenhausen, are constantly destined from their cradle, to some family



family contract. From this sort of predestination it proceeds, that these ladys have no eyes for any but the courtiers, the counsellors, or officers, who are their relations, and that they never play at court with any but them. The partys are always regulated in the morning, by the mothers and aunts; and a man must have, either a matchless assurance, or singular good fortune, to be admitted into any of these partys. So that you may see, every evening, strangers of the first quality sauntering up and down the great gallery, admiring the busts, or placing themselves behind a chair, and asking, with an indolent tone, *Do you win, Madam? Do you lose, Mademoiselle?* interesting conversation! The misfortune is, that there is here, neither queen nor princess, and consequently no ladys of the bedchamber, or maids of honor, who are paid for being polite. It must be confesd however, that when you have once the good fortune to becom acquainted with these ladys, when you have met with them in the city, and

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have been introduced to their families, they are not destitute of charms, nor of the knowledge of polite life. Love has constantly asserted his right over the hearts of some among them, and all the leaves in the book of the chronicles of scandal, of the court of Hannover, do not remain in blank. I shall entertain you with some anecdotes of this nature, that are curious enough, when I have the happiness to see you at Berlin, and you will permit me to pay you my respects. In the mean time, I have the honor to be, with the most perfect attachment,

Madam, &c.

LETTER

## L E T T E R XIX.

To M. Hagedorn, in Hamburg.

*Hannover, Aug. 26, 1740.*

S I R,

YOUR friend, M. Lifcow, has no need of a letter of recommendation, to meet with a favorable reception, and every kind of service that it is in my power to do him. He is not in the situation of those sort of travellers, who to procure an admittance into good family's, are obliged to provide themselves with a great number of those kinds of passports. The bearers of so many letters of recommendation make me constantly suspect them: men of real merit are always known in the world; and the celebrated name of the author of the most ingenious satyrs that have appeared since the death of Dr. Swift, is his own best introducer. I have presented M. Lif-

K 2

cow

cow to all my friends. He has attracted  
 the regard of every one, and especialy of  
 count Troughses, who has offerd him an  
 apartment in his hous at Berlin, and has  
 promis'd to procure him a good place at  
 our court. This friend of ours has a lively  
 and satyric wit, ornamented with much eru-  
 dition. He honord me with his company  
 in an excursion we made to Hildesheim.  
 Never did I enjoy more pleasur. The mi-  
 nisters were charmd with his company.  
 The next morning they paid him a visit  
 and invited him to dinner: he enjoyd their  
 good cheere, drank their excellent wine,  
 and rallyd with them in the most agreeable  
 manner in the world. He has deliverd me  
 the new edition of your fables. To de-  
 clare all the admiration I have of your  
 poems, it were necessary, Sir, to posses  
 that fecundity of ideas, and that facility of  
 exprefing them, which you enjoy. We  
 have nothing that is better conceived, or  
 better expres'd in our language; you join  
 the naivety of diction in Fontain, with a  
 pro-



profound erudition, and which you have the art of disengaging from all the appearance of pedantry. I could wish however that you had not made quite so many notes. They interrupt too much the readers attention, whose curiosity makes him, maugre all his resolution, take his eyes off every moment. Tho they relate, I must allow, to facts, to points of history, to anecdotes and allusions that require explanation; but when they are very numerous they seem to me to hurt that good opinion which each reader has of himself, by supposing him to be quite ignorant. This is the only critic I have to make on your work, and it is of little consequence. Pardon however the liberty I have presumed to take in declaring my sentiment. But it was your desire.

I have just renewd an acquaintance with one of our old friends, Dr. T\*\*\*, formerly minister of the English church at Hamburg, and now clerk of the closet to his Britannic majesty. You are acquainted with the un-

derstanding, the heart and the accomplishment of this able man, and you remember how large a share he had in producing that weekly writing which appeared some years since at Hamburg, under the title of the *Patriot*, and which has lately been so magnificently reprinted in volumes, and has been also translated into several languages. A considerable number of the moral, philosophical and theological pieces, contained in that excellent work, are his. On quitting Hamburg he obtained a church living in London, but the reputation of his talents for the pulpit soon made him known at court. He was appointed one of those who preach before the parliament, while it is assembled. You know that Dr. Swift formerly exercised the same function before the parliament of Ireland at Dublin, when preaching one day on *vanity*, he remarked that there were four objects of which mankind in general are vain, 1. Their birth or rank, 2. their riches, 3. their persons, and 4. their understandings. He therefore

fore divided his sermon into these four heads, and after having discussed the three first he said, " We now come to our fourth  
 " head, but as in this christian assembly,  
 " there is no one who can possibly be vain  
 " of his understanding, it is altogether un-  
 " necessary, to enlarge on this topic, I  
 " shall therefore make a few practical ob-  
 " servations and conclude." This satyric  
 stroke, for want of being coverd with the  
 veil of politenes, gave great offence, and  
 was of considerable prejudice to the dean  
 himself. Dr. T\*\*\* is far more prudent,  
 and flatters his audience not a little, espe-  
 cially the king, who has appointed him his  
 chaplain on his journey to Hannover; and  
 that office is usually followd by a bishoprick.  
 The king therefore said the other day to  
 this clergyman, " Doctor, you are out of  
 " luck, there has no bishop died since we  
 " have been here; but as the deanery of  
 " Peterborough is become vacant, I will  
 " give you that, till I can do something  
 " better for you." So you now see him a  
 K 4 dean,



dean, and in a fair way of being one of the first dignitarys in the English church. This Dr. T\*\*\* is a very amiable man, of an excellent character, independent of his learning and ability : but never have I seen any man so absent as he is : he has reverys that have escaped Bruyere and Regnard. He forgot the day he was to be marry'd, and which his servant put him in mind of, by bringing him a new coat, and wig finely powderd. One day while he was talking, a gnat bit his leg severely, the Doctor stoopd and scratchd a gentlemans leg that stood next, who smiling at his absence, never interrupted him, and the gnat all the time kept biting on. The Doctor made a party once with three of his friends, almost as absent as himself, to go in a coach to Windsor. When they were in the coach they began to dispute about some points of philosophy ; and when they had got about half way they perceived that the coachman loiterd. M. Desmaiseaux, who was one of the company, put his head  
out



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out of the door, and cryd to the coachman *Allons donc, Allons donc.* The man thought he said *a London, a London,* and replyd, turning his horses about, as you pleas gentlemen. The debate continuing, these four learnd absentees never perceivd they were going back, till they came to the turnpike that leads into London; when they found, that instead of being at Windsor, where their dinner waited for them, they were very near the place from whence they set off.

But while I am giving you these little samples of the distraction of Doctor T\*\*\*, I find, Sir, by the length of my letter, that I am very near falling into a like inattention myself. I therefore conclude with assuring you that I am, with the most perfect and inviolable attachment,

SIR, &c.

## L E T T E R XX.

To my Brother, at Paris.

*Hannover, Sept. 2, 1740.*

I Am highly pleas'd, my dear Brother, to hear that you are safe arrived at Paris.. Your journey to Spain gave us great inquietude. Yet I cannot by any means blame that curiosity which is so natural at your time of life: it is only proper to give it just bounds, and to take care that it does not exceed that expence which my father has thought proper to prescribe. You did very right not to let us know your intention, for these kinds of projects are never approv'd till after they have succeeded. The account you have given me of your journey is highly entertaining, and your description of the Pyrenes truly curious. I should have been pleas'd to have  
seen

seen your embarrassment at the convent of St. Ignatius, when Mess. the Jesuits conducted you into their subterranean apartments, to show you the tomb of the founder of their order : how great was your surprise when they drew a long curtain, and displayd, by the light of torches, the portrait of their famous saint, as large as the life; surrounded with a frame completely covered with brilliants and other precious stones? Such a sight must be extremely dazeling, and I can easily believe that your eyes could not bear the lustre.

The saying, that *the habit is worth more than the monk*, was here literally verifyd. It is odd enough, that St. Peter should be obliged to take a penny out of the body of a fish to pay his masters tribute, and that these monks, who pretend to be of the company of Jesus, should bury in their caverns, riches that are sufficient to purchase an empire; and that the figure of a slovenly monk should be decorated with more precious diamonds than are to be found in

the crowns of kings. This magnificence is altogether worldly : but since luxury has found its way into the church, the gift of miracles has been lost. For my part, I had much rather see a pope, or other holy person, take upon occasion, a penny out of the belly of a carp, than to see in the caverns of the Jesuits all the diamonds of India and Brasil : for these treasurs contain in fact the choicest riches of the whole christian world. You will excuse, my dear brother, these reflections, for you know that I am naturally addicted to reason on every occasion.

You had well nigh seen at Paris, a much greater curiosity than all the diamonds, and all the founders of religious orders ; and that is, the king of Prussia : I much doubt if he will ever obtain the title of *Saint*, but I am certain he will deserve that of *Great*, if Providence shall prolong his days. From his early youth he has had an extreme curiosity to see France, and to have an ocular acquaintance with a nation that has produced



duced so many works of wit. Having been lately at Wesel, he availed himself of the proximity to go to Strasburg, and his intention was to have gone quite to Paris. But as a rambling majesty makes but an odd figur, and is attended with many inconveniencys, when it is once out of its own limits, the king had determind to leave his, on the frontiers, and to travel under the title of count Four. Prince William, the king's brother, took that of count Schaftgotsch. They had very few attendants, so that two coaches were sufficient to carry them and all their baggage. When they came to Kehl, the landlord informed M. Frederstorff, who is first valet de chambre to the king, that count Four would have occasion for a passport, after he had crossd the bridge that is over the Rhin. Frederstorff drew one up, and after the king had signd it, he seald it with the roial seal. The host, who was in an adjoining closet, saw with surprise the king sign his name Frederic, and then the roial seal put  
to

to it: and when Frederstorff came out, he said, *Count Four is the king of Prussia, Sir, I saw him sign his name.* Frederstorff was obliged to confes the truth; however he stopd the mouth of mine host with a golden gag, and he faithfully kept the secret.

When they came to Straßburg, count Four put up at *The Holy Ghost*, and count Schaftgotfch at the *Raven*, and by this precaution they hoped to remain unknown. Their first care was to provide themselves with French dresses. Toward evening the king went to the coffe hous, where he soon became acquainted with five or six officers who appeard to him the most agreeable. He invited them to sup with him, and they accepted his offer without much hesitation; saying to each other, *Come, let us go and see what this Bobemian count is made of.* I have already told you, my dear brother, that I have never met with any man who is so pleasing at table as the king. He has something so engaging, a conversation so sprightly, a politenes so easy and natural,  
that

that his new acquaintance seem'd to think that count Four had a great deal of wit for a German; and that he spoke very good French. The supper was gay, and the next morning the officers had so much respect for their new friend as to come again and take chocolate with him: and one of them was polite enough to invite him to supper in his turn; but the king found means to excuse himself.

After dinner he went to the parade, and there it was that they pretend he was known by a soldier of the garrison, who had formerly serv'd in the Prussian troops, and who immediately inform'd Mareschal von B\*\*\* of it, who is the governor of Strasburg. In fact, the king having ask'd leave to visit him, under his borrow'd name, the governor admitted him, and receiv'd him politely, as a private gentlman; but gave him to understand, in the cours of the conversation, that he was not ignorant that he was talking to a monarch, and even let fall the word majesty. The king was a good deal piqued



piqued with this indiscretion; for if the mareschal knew that it was the king of Prussia he ought not to have receivd his visit, but to have prevented him with marks of the utmost respect. When his majesty came from the governor, he went to the French comedy, and from thence returnd to sup at his inn.

The third day, in the morning, there ran a whisper about the town, that the king of Prussia was in Strasburg. Even the taylor who had made his cloths woud take nothing in payment, but said to M. Frederstorff that it was honor enough for him to have workd for so great a monarch. They made him however a handsom present, and enjoind him silence. That day the king saw the citadel, and all the curiositys of Strasburg. Toward evening there were bonfires lighted in several parts of the city, and the people cryd out every where, *long live the king of Prussia.* There was a prodigious number of people at the comedy, and they waited a long time, in hopes  
of



of seeing the king there. But H. M. who was unwilling to give occasion to such scenes, and who besides felt some remains of his late fever, resolv'd to return, and to defer his journey to Paris to a better opportunity. He therefore set off the next morning early for Wesel. I could have wish'd, for more than one good reason, that the king and Mess. the Parisians had seen each other as strangers.

You know, I suppose, that during H. M. stay at Wesel he had a difference with the bishop of Liege, concerning the barony of Herstal, which makes the suburbs of the city of Liege itself. That prelat had the insolence to arrest colonel von Kreytzen, whom the king had sent to him as his envoy. But H. M. has orderd some companys of grenadiers into that bishoprick, where they live at discretion: and I hear that Baron von Horion, with another minister, are named to come to Berlin, to make submissions to the king, on the part of the bishop, and to terminate the affair  
by

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by an accomodation. Who knows, if this little vigorous act, be not a prelude to some grand military operations that the king shall hereafter perform ?

Let me hear from you soon, my dear brother ; I imagine we shall not stay long here. When H. Britannic M. quits this country to return to London, we shall take the road to Berlin, where I desire you will direct your letters. I embrace you tenderly, and am, &c.

**LETTER**

## LETTER XXI.

To M. von Stuvén, at Hamburgh.

*Hannover, Oct. 6, 1740.*

WE have lived for these eight days past, my dearest friend, like salamanders, in the midst of a fire. The king of Great Britain has made the review of his Hannoverian army. These troops are very fine, and perform their exercise very well, after their manner. There has been here moreover an immens concours of strangers: we have seen at Herrenhausen, within a few weeks, H. R. H. the princess of Orange, H. R. H. the hereditary princess of Hesse Cassel, with the prince her consort, and the princess Mary, daughter of the reigning Landgrave. The court has been highly brilliant on this occasion, and the king has given grand entertainments; among others a superb maskd ball  
in



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in the verdant theatre of the gardens of Herrenhausen. The whole theatre, and a great part of the gardens, were illuminated with lamps of different colors, which afforded a most pleasing sight. The court was almost all in Dominos, and most of them being white, as they walkd thro the alleys by the light of the lamps, they gave the gardens the appearance of the Elisian fields. They supd at three great tables; the king was in extreme good humor; after supper they went to dancing again, and I did not get back to Hannover till five in the morning, that is to say, till broad day.

Some days after we had a grand masquerade at the opera hous at Hannover, which was finely illuminated with wax lights. The number of masks was prodigious. The king was in a Turkish dress, the turban of which was ornamented with a magnificent egret of brilliants: this mask was very proper for a prince who is on his return, because it disguises well, and has a  
com-



commanding aspect. Lady Yarmouth was in the habit of a Sultana. But among all the masks there was no one more striking, or of a more elegant taste, than that of the princess of Hesse. This princess is tall and of a figur perfectly regular. She was dressd in the habit of a rural nymph, made of white sattin, and ornamented with Italian flowers. Her habit was made in the form of a vest, which finely markd her shape, and displayd, as far as modesty woud permit, a neck that is ravishingly beautiful. Add to all this, that her highness appears to have been formd by the hands of the Graces, and that she dances with an enchanting air, and you will easily believe that this mask made a distinguishd figur, and attracted the eyes of all the assembly: and that it woud have excited much jealousy among the ladys, and much desire among the men, had it not soon been known that it was her roial highness.

If the princess of Orange, the king's eldest daughter, cannot be placed in com-

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petition with the princess we have just mentioned, for the elegance of her figure, she is, on the other hand, -endowed with a mind that abundantly atones for any defects in external beauty. She has a manner of thinking that is just and vigorous, great knowledge, and boundless talents. The king gave her a concert at Herrenhausen, where she sung in great taste, and performed on the harpsicord in a masterly manner. Her highness's stay here, however, was very short; she passed before our eyes in a manner like lightning, so that it was impossible to be fully acquainted with her character.

The king, who has had frequent attacks of an ague, with an inflammation in his eyes, will leave Herrenhausen directly by advice of his physicians, and go to Hanover. I suppose his return to England is not far distant, as he will scarce expose himself to the dangers of the sea in the bad season. We have orders, count Troughes and I, when his Britannic majesty

jesty shall depart, to attend the king our master at Rheinsberg, where he proposes to pass the first months of the winter. You will therefore, my dear friend, address your letters hereafter to Berlin. I am, much more than I am able to express,

Your, &c.

END of the THIRD VOLUME.

E. B. T. H. R. M. L.

My dear friend,  
I have just received your letter of the 10th inst. and am  
glad to hear that you are well. I am  
well and hope this letter will find you  
the same. I am, my dear friend,  
Yours truly,  
E. B. T. H. R. M. L.

Yours truly,  
E. B. T. H. R. M. L.

Yours truly,  
E. B. T. H. R. M. L.